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A SCIENTIST LOOKS AT HISTORY¹

TO THE LAYMAN, science and history at first glance seem unrelated and far apart. A closer analysis, however, reveals some astonishing similarities between these seemingly separated fields of learning. I do not allude, as you may perhaps infer from this statement, to that long line of historians who have chronicled the achievements of science from early historical times up to the present. History as a narrative of events could not ignore scientific achievements any more than it could ignore the chronicles of political and social events.

I have in mind as I view history, more fundamental and deep-seated similarities to science which have to do with methods and techniques, and especially with objectives and even with outcomes and results, as these affect our human progress in all its manifold branches. History that is merely and only a narrative of events is like a collection of those curios—sometimes called curiosities—found on the what-nots of our Victorian-age parents or grandparents, to wit, perhaps, a vegetable worm from Australia, a clump of native copper from Michigan, an Indian arrowhead from the Great Plains, and the inevitable polished sea shell that still echoed the roar of the ocean waves from which it had been rescued. Such curios and such historical events lack continuity and interrelation. They reveal little of cause and effect. They are incomplete and sometimes even mislead-

¹A paper presented before the luncheon session of the ninetieth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, at the St. Paul Athletic Club on January 16, 1939. *Ed.*

ing as records of human experience. Human experience is merely another term for human experiments. Like all other biological organisms, the human race is constantly experimenting, consciously or unconsciously, in biologic, social, economic, and political relations. The results of these experiments are incompletely recorded unless displayed in their setting of relevant preceding and succeeding events. Such experiments differ not at all from the experiments which the scientist carries on to extend knowledge in his particular science.

The chemist puts two chemicals together—events that, so far as he knows, have never occurred in such a sequence. The substance or substances produced are the resulting historical event. Only when he is a faithful historian of every condition and of every episode occurring in such a controlled experiment and only when he is a wise and sound interpreter of the cause and effect relations—only then is he a truly scientific investigator. It is just so, I take it, with the historian of human history. He too must recognize the experimental significance of human events. He too must stick strictly to the facts, be they contrary to or in accord with common beliefs or be they even explosive of sacred tradition. He too, without prejudice or distortion, must interpret and record the events that reveal the results in terms of human relations.

It must be quite obvious that the historian's job of interpretation of events as significant factors in social, political, and other experiments in human history is a more complex one than that of the scientist. The scientist aims to control every condition of his experiment: as purity of chemicals, temperature, light, humidity, and the like. Only when these conditions are controlled and meticulously recorded can the experiment be accurately repeated. Only thus can he be sure of obtaining the same result. Only then does his scientific history repeat itself.

But the chronicler of human history cannot control the

conditions of the experiments in human progress. He cannot alter in the slightest the events that preceded the signing of Magna Charta. His is the task of correlating the events that most clearly have causal connections and significant interrelations. Perhaps because of the improbable occurrence of strictly identical conditions, history never exactly repeats itself. Even the biologist's planned experiment frequently fails to give consistent results because of unforeseen or uncontrollable factors or conditions. Scientists often have violent disputes among themselves even over the facts involved as well as over interpretations of these facts.

This naturally raises the question, how exact is science? Some scientists maintain that physics and mathematics are the only exact sciences, and there are those who would even exclude physics. An exact science is one in which the historical record is unfailingly accurate.

On the other hand, cause and effect relations are clearly demonstrable in the scientist's experiments and confirmable by frequent repetition. Just so in the history of the human race, out of the complex conditions presented by different times and different lands, by different social and economic conditions, cause and effect are also discernible. And herein lies the value of history. As an accurate record of experiments and experience in human progress, it is the most available and most reliable guide to future experiments offering greatest probability of success. The repetition of probable failures may often be avoided and successful experience repeated. But history cannot be the sole guide for civilization's experiments any more than it can be in the field of science. Scientists are constantly inaugurating totally new and unprecedented experiments with the astounding results familiar to all in the physical world of today. And so is the human race trying radically new experiments in its social, political, and economic growth and evolution.

For instance, to the cold, analytical eye of the scientist—and I am sure to the equally analytical eye of the his-

torian—Communism in Russia, Naziism in Germany, and Fascism in Italy are political experiments in nationalism. We, as critics, may have positive and even violent opinions as to the probabilities of success in the attainment of the defined or undefined objectives of these experiments. We may invoke historical events of the past and attempt to predict the results of such experiments, yet it must be quite obvious to an unprejudiced observer that, even though all three of these political experiments may be classed as totalitarianism, no two of them are exactly alike. And it is improbable, to say the least, that any experiment exactly identical with any one of them has ever been tried in the past or recorded in history. When you change the conditions of an experiment, you change the experiment, and the political, social, and economic conditions of the year 1939 or of any other year are peculiar to that year itself. Totalitarianism is a quest for power through national regimentation. Will power be the deciding factor in the competition for national dominance, or even in the struggle for existence? How will democracy match that power and still retain its liberties, rights, and privileges for the individual? This will become an exceedingly important question if the European experiments in totalitarianism finally demonstrate a consistent and enduring superiority in the development of national power. These are problems that the human race is seeking to solve by new and radical experiments. The historian of the future will read and interpret the answers in events to come.

Let us consider now for a moment the scientist and his methods. To my mind, he is fundamentally a historian. He believes in and uses the historical method. He does not attempt a new experiment until he has searched the literature of the whole world not only to make sure that the experiment has not been previously performed but to learn all that has been done in the field of that experiment. He must know the past before he can safely explore the future. Frequently he finds that his experiment has been tried many times, but in a careful scrutiny of the methods used or conditions surround-

ing such experiments, he finds factors or conditions that may have led to failure and which he can therefore avoid. Accuracy of history is therefore to him of most vital importance. And it follows, therefore, that the history which he writes—he calls it a paper on research—must be faithful, accurate, and complete in every detail. Just as with the historian, the facts, procedures, and observations of events must be faithfully recorded so that others may interpret them for themselves with even radically different conclusions. It is not merely coincidence, but it is a fact of significant interest to the historian that Darwin's famous work was entitled *Origin of Species*.

In another and even more important sense, all science has an ultimate historical goal. Notwithstanding the myriad applications of electricity in power transmission, in light, in radio, and so on, no one knows exactly what electricity is. The head of the great research laboratories of the General Motors corporation has said that no one yet knows just how the spark in a gasoline motor ignites the gas. The final goal of physical science is a knowledge of the constitution of matter. In other terms this means the origin or the beginnings of matter—and that is a historical event. That it will ever be found, no man knows. Human comprehension may not even be able to recognize it.

Of all the scientists, the biologists are most intimately and practically concerned with history. Indeed, biology is founded on biological history. The history of life on this planet is sometimes called evolution—which is merely the record of the events and changes which have taken place in past ages since the origin of living things. The biologist's history goes back millions of years. Thousands of years are as a day. His historical records are not merely books or hieroglyphics. They are fossils and casts and remnants preserved in coal, in limestone, or other earth structures—historical records antedating recorded history by millions of years. And even in the biological facts of the present, the biologist finds valuable historical records of the even distant

past, because biologic organisms in their brief span of life from birth to death repeat in epitome the long history of their species. In that epitome may be found structures that record biological events of ages ago. Through an increasing knowledge of the mechanism of heredity, the plant breeder gleans valuable historical data from a detailed knowledge of the life history of living organisms which throws light on life in the distant past. And, conversely, a knowledge of organisms existing millions of years ago may explain biological processes and structures of living organisms of today. Verily is the biologist a historian.

As I have pointed out above, history is of vital importance to human progress as a record of human experiments, as an interpretation of the results of these experiments, and as a guide to human actions and relations. To profit by that history requires faithfully reported facts and accurate and unbiased judgment in interpretation and use of the results. Science and history are identical in these demands.

And, finally, to every one of us in our everyday life, the methods common to science and history are of paramount practical significance and importance. Intelligence and education are the rocks on which are founded the blessings which democracy, through ages of social and political experiments, has won for the individuals of the human race. To retain those blessings, the people, as their own rulers, must know the facts of history—the whole unbiased truth—not distorted or perverted in any way. And they must learn to interpret these intelligently, which means with historical and scientific accuracy. In the ideal democracy of the future, every citizen must be a historian. Utopia has never been found in the world's past history, but science teaches that such a negative fact can never be finally validated until the end of time. It will never be found except through human experiments carefully planned and accurately interpreted.

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WHEN FOND DU LAC WAS BRITISH¹

EVENTS AND SCENES far removed from Fond du Lac determined the course of its history in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Scarcely a decade elapsed between the beginning of continuous trade by the French in this area and the outbreak of the last French and Indian War. The final defeat of the French at Montreal in September, 1760, resulted in the acquisition by England of Canada and eastern Louisiana. Even before the definitive treaties were concluded, British forces had occupied the frontier posts at Detroit, Mackinac, and Green Bay. Distant Fond du Lac thus came under the British sphere of influence.

For several years no attempts were made by British traders to reach the Head of the Lakes, because conditions on the frontier during Pontiac's rebellion were unsettled. Though the eastern Chippewa from La Pointe to Mackinac joined with the famous chief in his unsuccessful war, those about Fond du Lac remained neutral. The Chippewa to the west had a war of their own, that with the Sioux, which had been fought intermittently for some decades. About the time that the British gained control of French Canada, the Chippewa were establishing their villages about the headwaters of the Mississippi, from Sandy Lake to Leech Lake. The almost annual raids of these two tribes into one another's territories seriously interfered with the fur trade, and the commandant at Mackinac was finally compelled to intervene. Peter Pond, a trader on the Minnesota River in 1774-75, records in his journal that the traders in the upper Mississippi region were urged to bring in the principal Chippewa and Sioux leaders for a great peace conference.

¹A paper read on July 30, 1938, at the Fond du Lac session of the sixteenth state historical convention held under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society. *Ed.*

The chiefs met at Mackinac in the summer of 1775, agreed to the Mississippi as the common boundary, and temporarily buried the hatchet. Thus peace was established in the Fond du Lac area about the time that the war for independence broke out in the thirteen colonies.²

At the close of the American Revolution the Chippewa were in control of the entire region from Lake Superior to the Crow Wing River. More settled conditions led to a revival of the trade with the Indians. Previous to 1783 the comparatively few traders in what is now north-central Minnesota entered by way of the Mississippi River; after that time they came in larger numbers by way of the St. Louis River and Sandy Lake.

Far removed from the eastern seaboard, the Fond du Lac region played no direct part in the controversy and war between George III and his American subjects. The royal proclamation of 1763, one bone of contention, created the government of the Province of Quebec, but Fond du Lac was not placed under its jurisdiction. The first written constitution nominally in effect at the Head of the Lakes was that extended by the Quebec Act of 1774. It is doubtful, however, that this constitution ever operated west of Lake Michigan. When the Revolutionary War broke out, some of the eastern Chippewa fought for the British under Captain Charles de Langlade of Green Bay; but the Indians at the Head of the Lakes seem to have remained neutral. Their enemies, the Sioux, especially those of southern Minnesota, did take part in the unsuccessful attack on St. Louis in May, 1780. Though the Indians of Fond du Lac avoided participation in the war, they could not escape from an enemy more dangerous and fatal than war itself—the dreaded disease of smallpox. In the year 1782 an epidemic broke out among the western Chippewa, which was

² H. A. Innis, *Peter Pond, Fur Trader and Adventurer*, 47-50 (Toronto, 1930); Charles M. Gates, ed., *Five Fur Traders of the Northwest*, 48 (Minneapolis, 1933).

estimated by one writer to have resulted in the deaths of fifteen hundred persons.³

The Fond du Lac area was recognized by the treaty of 1783 as a part of the United States. It came very near remaining British, for John Adams, one of our negotiators, was authorized to consent to the forty-fifth parallel as the boundary, if the English would not accept the middle of the Great Lakes waterway. Fortunately, the English ministers agreed to the latter, and Fond du Lac became American.

Title to this region did not immediately pass to the central government, since Virginia, under its charter of 1609, laid claim to the land northwest of the Ohio River. In 1781 the legislature of Virginia authorized the cession of this territory to the central government. Not until March, 1784, did Congress accept this cession, and the land about the Head of the Lakes then became a part of the public domain, the disposal of which was to be left to the legislature of the national government. Seventy years were to elapse before this particular section was opened to permanent white settlement.

Shortly after the cession by Virginia, Thomas Jefferson offered a plan for the creation of future states in the newly acquired West, and this was accepted by Congress, becoming known as the Ordinance of 1784. No part of this ordinance seems ever to have been put into effect, but it is of interest to note that the region at the Head of the Lakes was included in the proposed state of Sylvania, which also would have taken in most of what is now Wisconsin.

The recorded visitors to the western Lake Superior country in the early part of the British regime were comparatively few. Alexander Henry, survivor of the Indian massacre at Mackinac, seems to have been among the first. In 1765 he was given the exclusive right to the trade about

³ William W. Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, 1:65 (St. Paul, 1921); William W. Warren, "History of the Ojibways," in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 5:260-262, 344 (1885).

Lake Superior. In the fall of that year he built a wintering house on Chequamegon Bay and carried on trade largely in that vicinity. From his *Travels*, however, we learn that he sent one of his clerks, as his agent, with two loaded canoes, to trade with the Chippewa at the Head of the Lakes.⁴ No mention is made in Henry's *Travels* of the outcome of this trading venture. It should be noted, nevertheless, that this clerk was undoubtedly the first licensed trader in the Duluth-Superior area during the British period.

Less than two years later, in the summer of 1767, Captain Jonathan Carver, the famous traveler, entered Lake Superior by way of the Brule River, and passing outside of Wisconsin and Minnesota points continued along the North Shore to Grand Portage. In his famous book he assigns the name West Bay to the end of the lake, and remarks that the Indians had most fittingly given the term "Moschettoe [*mosquito*] Country" to the land between Lake Superior and the Mississippi.⁵

One of the most interesting records of trading at the Head of the Lakes is that related in the "Narrative" of Jean Baptiste Perrault. Employed by the trader Alexander Kay, he was one of a party of seventeen that left Mackinac in the latter part of August, 1784, and was shipwrecked on Wisconsin Point on November 3. Two days later, having repaired their canoes and collected the scattered goods, they entered Superior Bay, on the shores of which they found the wintering house of a Mr. Dufault, a trader of the Northwest Company. From a map by Perrault it is ap-

⁴ Alexander Henry, *Travels & Adventures in Canada and the Indian Territories*, 183-188 (Boston, 1901).

⁵ Jonathan Carver, *Three Years Travels through the Interior Parts of North-America*, 53, 54 (Philadelphia, 1789). In his Journal, under date of July 12, 1767, Carver wrote: "arrivd at a small Chipeway Village on the Entrence of the River St Louis at the Wistern Extremity of Lake Superiour. This Village is a most dirty Begarly Village I Ever saw Capt Tute held a Counsel with their Chief made him some presents the next day tarryd to supply our selves with fish as our Provisions was near gone." Carver's manuscript Journal is in the British Museum; the Minnesota Historical Society has a photostatic copy.

parent that this house was on Rice's Point in the present city of Duluth near the end of Garfield Avenue.⁶

Perrault describes with some detail the difficulty met in transporting the goods into the interior by way of the St. Louis River, the Savanna Portage, and Sandy Lake. Weak from hunger and hindered by ice and snow, the traders took eleven days to cover the distance from Fond du Lac to the neighborhood of present Floodwood. For some days they lived on the seed pods of the wild rose and the sap of trees. They then crossed the portage to a point on Prairie River not far from the outlet of Prairie Lake, about nine miles north of the present town of Cromwell. There they built a temporary shelter and subsisted for some time on roots and a small species of whitefish. About Christmas, near the point of starvation, Perrault set out for Pine River, about twenty miles west of Aitkin, where some of the party under Kay had collected a scanty supply of food. In company with several others, Perrault returned to the site near Prairie Lake, built a substantial log cabin, and entered into trade with the Indians. Kay was stabbed by an Indian during a drinking bout early in May, and was so seriously wounded that it was thought best to take him immediately to Mackinac. Perrault and several others remained to trade near Prairie Lake, Sandy Lake, Swan River, and Leech Lake. They reached Superior Bay on June 7, 1785, and were there held up for seven days until the ice moved out from the outlet between Wisconsin and Minnesota points.

Four years later, in the summer of 1789, Perrault with six other traders returned to the Fond du Lac region. Trading areas were assigned by lot. One trader stayed on the St. Louis River, two went to Leech Lake, two to Pine River, one to Red Lake, and one to distant Otter Tail Lake. Upon the close of a successful season the traders met at Sandy Lake in the spring of 1790. There the division of the re-

⁶ Jean Baptiste Perrault, "Narrative," in *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37:518, 519 (1910).

turns was made, after which the entire party set out for Mackinac.

Practically the same group returned to Fond du Lac in the fall, and, as before, divided the trading areas by lot. The Nemadji River was assigned to Belle Harris, and he was left with an outfit consisting of "Two pieces of cloth, and an assortment of 3 Kegs of rum, $\frac{1}{2}$ keg of sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ keg of tallow, 1 sack of flour, and 1 of corn, 2 nets, $\frac{1}{2}$ Case of hardware, some traps and kettles." The six others went in pairs to the St. Louis River, the Crow Wing, and Leech Lake. When the company was dissolved in the spring of 1791, Perrault felt elated over the twelve packs of furs which constituted his share, but he was disappointed in Harris, who, as a result of excessive drinking, had collected but two packs on the Nemadji.⁷

These trading expeditions to Fond du Lac between 1784 and 1792 were so profitable that the Northwest Company decided to establish permanent posts in this section. In the summer of 1793 John Sayer, a Northwest partner, engaged Perrault to go to Fond du Lac and build a fort which would serve as a depot for the whole region. Perrault and ten workmen arrived at Connor's Point, in what is now Superior, on August 16. The building of the fort is best described in the "Narrative":

The Next Day The men prepared for Work and the 18th I gave them rough estimates of dimensions of the timbers and put them in the Wood-yard to Build 2 houses, of 40 feet each and a shed of 60 feet. . . . I set 2 men to sawing, 6 to squaring, Two I kept with me. The 12th of September mr. sayer arrived, and took up his quarters in his house, half of which Was finished. It was not Long before he was enjoying The other half, which was finished the 24th of September. After this, we Began The second house to shelter ourselves and went into it towards all-saints. In the Course of The autumn, winter, and spring we built the warehouse and stockade. All was ready on The arrival of mr. M'Kenzie, who came to fond du Lac in la Loutre, commanded by Capt. m'xwell, and bringing the merchandise for the outfits sent out from Fond du Lac.⁸

⁷ Perrault, in *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37:557.

⁸ Perrault, in *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37:569.

It may be of interest to mention that this boat, the "Otter," was probably the first sailing vessel to enter what is now the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

The post built by Perrault was given the name Fort St. Louis and was occupied by the Northwest Company until it withdrew from American territory shortly after the War of 1812. The exact location of the old fort has been rather definitely determined. The site was on Connor's Point about three miles from the Superior entry and, measuring along the point, was about halfway between the mouth of the Nemadji River and the end of the point. It was in what is now known as Roy's Addition of Superior, near the intersection of the present Bay and Winter Streets, not far from the municipal gas plant.

Fort St. Louis played an important part in the history of the Fond du Lac region for over twenty years. For more than half of that period it served not only as the central distributing point, but also as the Northwest Company headquarters for the whole Fond du Lac department. What a lively place it must have been for four or five weeks in mid-summer when the traders came in from all directions—from the upper St. Louis, the Nemadji, the Crow Wing, Pine River, Sandy Lake, Cass Lake, Leech Lake, Red Lake, and points as far away as the Red River! Here was the economic center of the then far American Northwest.

In 1805, when the fur trade in this area was probably at its best, a hundred and nine men were employed in the whole department. Fourteen large canoes were necessary to carry over four hundred pieces of goods, of ninety pounds each, from Fort William to Fort St. Louis. A third of the cargoes constituted provisions and the remainder trading goods. In exchange for the latter the traders collected from the Indians, during the season of 1805-06, a hundred and eighty-two packs of furs weighing about ninety pounds each.⁹

⁹ Elliot Coues, ed., *Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike*, 1:285, 286 (New York, 1895); Coues, ed., *New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest*, 1:280 (New York, 1897).

Fort St. Louis was not the only post erected by the Northwest Company in the Fond du Lac department. A permanent post was established at Sandy Lake in 1794, and shortly thereafter others were set up at Leech Lake, Upper Red Cedar (Cass) Lake, Lower Red Cedar (Cedar) Lake, and other points. About 1805 the post at Leech Lake became the headquarters for the department, but Fort St. Louis on Superior Bay remained the chief collecting and distributing point.

The Northwest Company did not enjoy a complete monopoly of the trade about the Head of the Lakes. Individual traders as well as organized groups offered stiff competition. From the "Journal" of the trader, Michel Curot, we learn that the short-lived XY Company had a post on Superior Bay in 1804 and perhaps before.¹⁰ Charles Grignon and John McBean built a rival fort, the exact location of which has not been determined. In the fall of 1804 the XY concern was absorbed by the Northwest Company, and the post was probably given up.

By the Jay treaty of 1794 the British agreed to evacuate all posts that were held on American soil contrary to the terms of the treaty of 1783. The forts at Detroit, Oswego, Mackinac, and Green Bay were taken over by American forces in July, 1796, and the traders and Indians about those posts first felt the authority of the American government. About 1800 the Northwest Company, realizing that its depot at Grand Portage was in American territory, moved its headquarters to a new point, Fort William on the Kaministiquia River. No immediate change, however, occurred at Fond du Lac. A British military force had never been stationed there, but the traders, being British in sympathy, passed out foreign medals to the Indians and displayed the English flag at all the posts. The uncertainty as to the exact boundary between British and American territory in this region may

¹⁰ Michel Curot, "A Wisconsin Fur-Trader's Journal, 1803-04," in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, 20:401, 454, 469 (1911).

in part account for this situation. Even as late as after the War of 1812, there were proposals that the St. Louis River be made a part of the international boundary.

In the early winter of 1806 the authority of the United States government was first carried to the Fond du Lac country by the expedition of Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike. Approaching from the south by way of the Mississippi River, he visited several of the Northwest Company posts and was entertained by Hugh McGillis, the trader at the chief fort of the Fond du Lac department on Leech Lake. Pike, disturbed by the widespread display of pro-British feeling, ordered that clerks in charge of the various posts haul down the English flag and fly only the Stars and Stripes. It is doubtful if the orders were faithfully carried out; undoubtedly the Union Jack was raised again after Pike's departure, and it is questionable whether the American flag was ever raised over old Fort St. Louis at the Head of the Lakes. It is interesting to note that, though Pike did not visit this post, he suggested that the American position in this area be strengthened by a garrison of a hundred men and the establishment of a customs office at Fond du Lac.¹¹ No action, however, was taken on this proposal.

In 1809 the control of the Northwest Company at Fond du Lac was challenged by a new American-owned enterprise, the American Fur Company of John Jacob Astor. During and following the season of 1809-10 he employed several traders in this region. In January, 1811, a combination representing both Astor and the Northwest Company was organized to take over the trade south of the boundary. This Southwest Company, as it was called, fell heir to Fort St. Louis and the other posts in the Fond du Lac department shortly before the beginning of the War of 1812. During the war the Northwest Company again assumed direct control, since it regarded the previous agreement as to division of territory suspended by the hostilities. The fur companies

¹¹ Pike, *Expeditions*, 1:250, 280.

suffered heavily during the war, for while the volume of trade was reduced to a fourth, the overhead expenses remained about the same, as the men under contract continued to draw their wages.¹²

When relations between the United States and England came to the breaking point in 1811-12, both sides strove to secure the support of the Northwest Indians. The British, however, had the advantage through their control of the fur trade. The leading agents of the Northwest Company received commissions in the British army and were ordered to enlist the support of the Indians. The British interpreter St. Germain was sent by Robert Dickson to Leech Lake to obtain the co-operation of the Chippewa. With few exceptions, however, the Indians about Fond du Lac remained neutral.

The years 1816-17 mark the close of British authority at the Head of the Lakes. The treaty of Ghent, closing the late war, provided for the mutual restoration of territory and authorized a joint commission to survey and definitely determine the northwest boundary. The British forces in Wisconsin were withdrawn in 1815, and shortly thereafter American soldiers were sent to occupy the forts at Prairie du Chien, Green Bay, and the Portage. American influence with the traders and Indians of Fond du Lac was strengthened thereby. Then in April, 1816, Congress passed a law which forbade foreigners to engage in the Indian trade in United States territory. Early in 1817 the interests of the Southwest Company were bought out by John Jacob Astor, and for the next thirty years the American Fur Company maintained posts in the Fond du Lac country. It did not see fit to use old Fort St. Louis at Superior, but instead it built a new post near the head of navigation on the St. Louis River, at Fond du Lac, Minnesota.

The Hudson's Bay Company, overlord of the Canadian

¹² Kenneth W. Porter, *John Jacob Astor, Business Man*, 1:253-256 (Cambridge, 1931).

Northwest, had its brief day of authority at the Head of the Lakes just as the curtain went down on the British phase of its history. Long-standing rivalry between the Hudson's Bay people and the Northwest traders and dispute over a settlement project in the Red River Valley finally resulted in open warfare between the representatives of the two concerns. In 1816 the Hudson's Bay men actually occupied Fort William, successor to Grand Portage as the headquarters of the Northwest Company. Lord Selkirk's emissaries also invaded the Fond du Lac department, confiscating the goods and arresting the men of the Southwest Company. Selkirk then sent twelve canoes and fifty traders into the Fond du Lac region to secure the trade for the season of 1816-17. They did not enter without opposition, however, as a number of the former Nor'westers reappeared during the winter and succeeded in securing half their usual quota of furs. Though definite information is lacking on this point, Fort St. Louis on Superior Bay was undoubtedly in the hands of the Hudson's Bay group for a part of this season. It is definitely known that by the summer of 1817 the Selkirk men had withdrawn from this section.¹³

The story of the British regime at the Head of the Lakes closes at this point. Though this area was recognized as belonging to the United States by the treaty of 1783, it remained under British control, without legal sanction, for more than three decades. Until the close of the second war with England, American influence in this section was negligible. During this period, however, Congress passed several important acts which, on paper, affected the Fond du Lac region. The famous Northwest Ordinance was to apply there, and General Arthur St. Clair, who was inaugu-

¹³ Kenneth W. Porter, "John Jacob Astor and Lord Selkirk," in *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*, 5:8 (October, 1930); Ramsay Crooks to John Jacob Astor, June 23, July 21, 1817, in American Fur Company, "Mackinac Letterbook," 1816-28. The letterbook is among the American Fur Company Papers in the possession of the New York Historical Society; the Minnesota Historical Society has copies of the letters cited.

rated at Marietta, Ohio, in July, 1788, may rightfully be claimed as its first territorial governor. After May 7, 1800, this section was included in Indiana Territory and came under the jurisdiction of Governor William Henry Harrison, whose seat of government was at Vincennes. From 1809 until 1818 Governor Ninian Edwards at Kaskaskia claimed authority over Fond du Lac as a part of the Territory of Illinois. As a matter of fact, no agents of these governors ever visited the Head of the Lakes, for the land was not as yet opened to permanent white settlement.

The few thousand Chippewa and several score of traders had as yet no need for judges, tax collectors, and representative assemblies. A Robert Dickson, a John Sayer, a Hugh McGillis, or a Jean Baptiste Cadotte had more immediate influence at Fond du Lac during this period than the Great White Father at distant Washington.

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SOME FRONTIER INSTITUTIONS¹

UNTIL THE PRESENT CIVILIZATION has passed away and the country again becomes the habitat of wolves and other dwellers of a wilderness plain, if that ever happens, and new attempts are made by some sturdy remnants of civilized man to reconquer the wilderness and carve out new homes for themselves and their children, no one can ever again experience the difficulties and hardships that were cheerfully met and overcome by the early pioneers of the old Northwest. This is so because, even if there were like spots on the earth to pioneer, no one wishing to settle there could get away from the older settlements without taking with him many conveniences, now considered necessities, which in pioneer days did not even exist. For this reason, I think the recalling and recording of pioneering experiences, conditions, and institutions, before they all are enveloped in the haze of tradition, is worth while, especially when one considers the fast gait at which we are now going.

A backward glance at such pioneer institutions as the country store, the blacksmith shop, the country school, the lyceum or debating school, the early country church, and the like, gives us an enlightening view of the lives and activities of the men and women who spent their time and energies preparing this country for the peaceful occupancy and support of later generations. They were the visible evidences of a comparatively primitive civilization.

The country store, as I remember it, was usually a one-and-a-half story frame building with a false front. The upper part was divided into rooms and occupied by the storekeeper and his family as living quarters. On entering the store through the front double door one would likely see a counter

¹A paper presented on January 16, 1939, at the luncheon session of the ninetieth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society. *Ed.*

on each side of a long room, a big cast-iron, wood-burning box heater near the middle, and a long table behind the stove. There was room for passing, however, on all sides of the stove. Around it, the men of the community discussed politics, religion, history, crops, livestock, neighborhood gossip, and the events, causes, and results of the then recent Civil War. Nothing was avoided and no subject escaped scathing condemnation or warm commendation except the personal or family affairs of some one present.

Both sides of the big room that formed the store were filled with crude but serviceable shelves set against the walls. The stock consisted of a little of everything that the new settlers needed or could use, from tea, coffee, and sugar, to log chains, rope, and scatter-guns. The shelves on one side of the store were filled with bolts of dry goods, mostly flannels, calicoes, muslins, and other dress goods of the period—for women usually made their own dresses—and pasteboard boxes containing small articles of dry goods. The counter on that side also was piled high with bolts of cotton goods overflowing from the shelves, with perhaps stacks of horse blankets and wheat sacks, leaving room on the counter only for measuring and wrapping. Presiding at this counter one might see the wife of the proprietor or possibly her pretty daughter.

On the other side of the room was the grocery section with its more or less orderly arrangement of glass jars, boxes, packages, and so forth, and, toward the rear, a smaller section given over to frontier necessities in the hardware and related lines. Here were articles ranging all the way from gimlets to log chains and steel teeth for harrows. The farmers made their own harrows, which they called "drags." On the grocery counter were a scale or two, a big round cheese box containing the unsold portion of a fat, yellow cheese, and last, but not, perhaps, least, a small open box of smoking tobacco and one of matches, for the free use of customers and loungers. With other items, all these things were arranged

to suit the convenience and taste of the proprietor, who always met one with a friendly greeting. On the middle table were piled all goods for which no other handy place could be found. The salt, cracker, and sugar barrels were placed as near the hand of the grocer behind the counter as space permitted. In a convenient corner stood the inevitable nail keg with a bundle of hickory ax helves sticking up for inspection.

Among the things carried in stock by the pioneer storekeepers that one does not see in stores nowadays were great barrels or hogsheads of coarse, dark brown, luscious looking sugar, more tempting to youngsters than candy. There were three grades of sugar besides brown sugar. These were "coffee A," which was white but not granulated; "coffee B," which was of a very light yellowish tint; and "coffee C," which was slightly darker, but was still not classed as brown sugar. All three grades were used for sweetening coffee and tea and for fancy cooking. The first, which was the purest and most expensive, was used in tea and coffee by those who could afford it. In most country stores also there were barrels of "New Orleans" molasses, green coffee berries in bulk, slates, candle molds, perhaps a cradle or two for cutting grain, powder and shot with percussion caps, white clay pipes, ox yokes and bows, hoarhound candy, dried apples, and even bustles and fine-tooth combs, which the youngsters called "Jerusalem overtakers." The country stores received eggs and furs in season from the farmers, always paying in trade. The eggs were packed in barrels with oats and were shipped directly or indirectly to St. Paul by team or boat.

Next in importance to the country store in the economic life of the pioneers was the blacksmith shop. Its erection followed closely upon that of the first store in a new community, and it was usually located at a central point. The blacksmith shop was nearly always built of rough boards placed perpendicularly and nailed around the sides and ends of a skeleton frame of two-by-fours. The cracks were covered with narrow thin boards or battens. The roof was con-

structed in the same way as the walls. After the shop was equipped with a rough handmade forge, a tub or a half barrel filled with water, a few tools, some of which were undoubtedly homemade, a hand bellows, and a small quantity of charcoal, the sturdy blacksmith was ready to make the sparks fly and to become a necessity in the community. Soon a small stock of unfinished horseshoes, iron rods of different sizes and lengths, and narrow strips of flat steel or iron would accumulate on overhead braces or in corners, while odds and ends of broken or worn-out farm tools and machinery would find rest in what seemed confusion in likely and unlikely places on the floor and the walls. The blacksmith was not only the shoer of horses and oxen, but he was the all-around tinker in iron and the master machinist for the entire neighborhood or territory tributary to the store. And how the boys admired his sweating, hairy arms and wondered at the strength of his smutty, bulging muscles!

My father used to tell the story of two Germans who, finding the blacksmith's shop closed, went to his home, their needs being urgent. A loud knocking brought a woman to the door in short order. Then the man nearest the door said, after a gruff greeting: "Ish der schmidt in?" The lady hesitated, not on the instant understanding. But the other man could not wait for further awkward explanation. He grabbed his companion by the shoulder and pulled him back with: "Let some von talk vat can talk. Ish der blackschmidt shop in der house?"

Turning from the purely material phases of pioneer life, the next institution of primary importance in the lives of the early settlers was the public school. The organization of school districts with regular school meetings followed closely on the organization of townships. These two local organizations have proved worthy cornerstones of the American form of government by the people — not always ideal, perhaps, but always "of the people." Both these quasi-municipal organizations were perfected as soon as conditions made such

action possible. Although many of the early settlers had little or no schooling, they were very anxious that their children should have the advantages of at least a common school education.

In or near timbered sections, the first schoolhouses were built of logs, even in the small villages. Out on the open prairie they were nearly always constructed of lumber. Both types were one-story, one-room affairs. Often classes met in them before they were finished, when the rafters and the studding were still exposed and the youngsters could climb and cut capers on them during intermissions.

Seats and desks were made by a neighborhood carpenter or handy man. He used wide, inch-thick, softwood boards smoothed and jointed with a jack plane for this equipment, and for the teacher's table, which usually had one drawer. Sometimes a long wide table and long benches were used instead of seats and desks. The girls sat on one side and the boys on the other — a rather pleasant arrangement for some of the older pupils, who were often interested in things other than "book larnin'." There were no dictionaries, no globe maps, no cyclopedias, no libraries, no paper tablets, no lead pencils. The teacher was supposed to know all the definitions of all the words used in the school or in its books, and to be able to answer all questions relating to geography, history, and other subjects that might come up in the course of the daily exercises or might be asked by any of the sponsors of the school. Slates and slate pencils were used for writing and "figuring," although the older pupils sometimes had pens and ink and copy books with which to learn to write by the Spencerian system. Often two pupils were obliged to study from one book, sometimes at the same time, sometimes not. A homemade blackboard, three and a half by four feet, often answered all the purposes later fulfilled by a blackboard extending clear across one end of the room. The teacher's program, if she had one, was usually written and nailed or hung on the wall.

Ventilation was obtained by opening doors or windows or both. Water for drinking purposes was carried by the larger boys, and sometimes the girls, from the nearest farmhouse, which was rarely less than half a mile away. Two pupils usually went for water, carrying the pail between them. All pupils went to school with dinner pails or "buckets," as some called them. In winter the schoolrooms were heated with large cast-iron wood-burning box stoves. The teachers were expected to start and tend the fires and to sweep the floors.

The first school terms were three months long, and they were held in the summer. Later winter terms of from three to five months were provided in some districts, in addition to the summer terms. Attendance was often irregular, for many of the children had to assist with farm work and cattle herding. Pupils ranged all the way from five to twenty years in age. All grades, from the "A B C class" up, were included. Most subjects now taught in the eighth grade were included in the curriculum, and in many of the country schools some high school subjects were taken up by pupils who were sufficiently advanced and ambitious. In many districts, however, grammar was frowned upon by pioneers who thought that studying it was a waste of valuable time. Special attention, however, was given to what the teachers called "language lessons," and these did not seem to arouse adverse criticism. Home study was not only encouraged, but insisted upon, as much for its habit-forming tendency and influence as for the extra knowledge that could be acquired. One thing always insisted upon in the early schools was thoroughness. At the beginning of each term, the work of the previous term was reviewed before new work was taken up. Monthly reviews were also a regular thing in most schools. No child was allowed to pass over assigned lessons or parts of them without understanding them. Mental arithmetic was on all programs. This subject was expected to cultivate the pupils' reasoning powers, memory, and ability to think and speak on their feet, as the whole class was required to

stand all through such a recitation. Moral precepts, hints, and illustrations were worked in by the teacher as occasion permitted, but no religious or sectarian teaching of any kind was allowed.

Teachers were scarce. Men over eighteen years of age and girls past sixteen were eligible to teach so far as age was concerned. Three grades of teachers' certificates were issued by the county superintendents of schools. In case of great need, a superintendent sometimes issued what was called a "permit" to an applicant who had not been able to pass the regular examinations—which were usually very thorough—but who was considered competent to teach in a given district. All teachers, however, had to be of good moral character and habits, and they were expected to be capable of exercising an influence for good over the children and in the district.

Some pioneer teachers were expected to "board around" with families who were sending children to the schools in which they taught. Fleas were common pests in every frontier home and very much a nuisance in homes where nothing was done to exterminate them. But it was great fun for the youngsters to watch, surreptitiously of course, while the teacher was trying her best to hear a class recite and scratch for fleas at the same time. Later, sometime in the 1870's, I think, the fleas disappeared completely. Their going, so far as I know, was never satisfactorily explained.

Just as important as book learning in the minds of the sponsors of the pioneer school were the discipline and the mental and moral training that the pupils were expected to receive. Great stress was laid upon a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of learning and on original thinking. Children were encouraged to work out their problems, so far as possible, with a minimum of outside help, though teachers, of course, led them into logical channels of thinking. Teachers were expected to exercise authority and control over the children while going to and from the school as well as during

school hours, and this authority involved the right and the duty of administering corporal punishment within reason and with no greater restraint than the law and reason imposed upon the parents. In most schools there was a noticeable atmosphere of reality, of hunger for learning, an earnest determination to make the best of the opportunities afforded.

One hears many jibes at the expense of the old country schools and the teachers who trudged through mud and storms of rain and sleet and snow to keep them. But one only has to hear the life stories of some of the men and women who have been building Minnesota during the last seventy years to be convinced that a great majority of them received the foundations of their educations and training in the little, thorough-going country school.

The country schoolhouse soon came to be used for dances, political and religious meetings, and social gatherings. Spelling and debating schools, also called lyceums, seemed to come as a natural result of the public school spirit. Both always held their meetings in the late fall and winter months. The older students joined with the men and women of the neighborhood in debating and other exercises, and often the older members of a community took part in the spelling matches. These meetings were not confined to single school districts, but all who lived within easy driving distance and wished to attend were welcome. The women usually contributed readings, recitations, and songs to the lyceum programs. Committees proposed the questions for debate and arranged the programs. Judges selected from the audiences decided which side had the best of the arguments. Critics who were expected to call attention to mistakes in pronunciation, manner of delivery, and the like, also were appointed. Debates were held on various subjects, though religious and political questions were excluded. All debates were handled with energy and sincerity. Besides bringing old and young of all political and religious beliefs together on common ground, these meetings exerted a profound influence upon the meth-

ods of thinking, the language, and the social instincts of the pioneers. Perhaps no other institution could have supplied similar benefits for the heterogeneous population of a new state. Lyceums and spelling matches were as popular and important in the life of small villages as in that of the country. Here also they helped to provide a much needed balance in the community life of the villagers.

The religious spirit of the early pioneers was kept alive, and in some localities was fanned into a flame sufficiently strong to support organizations, by missionaries, itinerant preachers, and "exhorters." Some of these religious leaders took claims and supported themselves and their families while extending their religious work. A few even worked by the day during the harvest and at other times when the settlers were especially busy. Meetings were held in private homes at first, and later in tents and schoolhouses. The early home missionaries were of a self-sacrificing type. They prepared the way for the later church organizations, which soon began to spring up in convenient places throughout the new country. The earliest meetings were entirely undenominational, so far as Protestantism was concerned. Even the evangelists who presided over "revivals" and "protracted meetings" held in scattered churches and schoolhouses and tents often avoided divulging their church affiliations and made every effort to avoid anything that might tend to split the community into religious groups. As a result, all Protestants in a community usually joined in the first church organizations.

The organization of Protestant churches under separate sectarian names did not come until after the country districts were comparatively well settled. The Catholic and Lutheran denominations were usually the first to organize permanently and build churches. Many church organizations established early in rural districts are still very active. As the villages grew, however, they took a heavy toll from the small organizations in contiguous territory, and many near-by

church buildings were abandoned or moved into the towns, and the communicants were absorbed into more centrally located societies.

Of the frontier institutions herein mentioned, perhaps the church organizations have suffered the least from changing times and conditions inevitable in newly settled and constantly growing communities. The spelling schools and lyceums, for all the good they did, are now only memories. The old country stores are a thing of the past, except perhaps in a few outlying districts, where they are greatly modified. The blacksmith shop as it once functioned is to be found only here and there, if at all, in very small villages, and then it is very much changed both in structure and equipment. But the church, as an institution, has continued to build up its membership and its structures as the population increased and prosperity came to its congregations.

LEROY G. DAVIS

SLEEPY EYE, MINNESOTA

THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1938¹

THE ANNUAL REPORT of a state historical society must deal with a multitude of details and a variety of activities, but they need to be viewed in the setting of general purposes. Records are collected and preserved, resources made available to the people, funds and services administered, and efforts made to promote historical understanding. These things are fundamental, for they center about history, which a great historian has defined as the "self-consciousness of humanity—humanity's effort to understand itself through the study of its past." The goal, as Professor Frederick J. Turner puts it, is the "living present," and so he emphasizes the unity and continuity of history. In the same spirit Dr. Folwell, speaking before the state legislature, once declared that the people are "custodians and trustees of the traditions, the institutions, the learning, the arts, and the faiths of the past," and he stressed their duty to hand them on, enhanced and enriched, to posterity. "To meet this duty," he said, "we must know our state—what she has been and what she has done." Toward such objectives the Minnesota Historical Society must steer its course. They lend importance even to the most routine and prosaic tasks that it carries on from year to year.

The challenge of state and local history served as the theme of a brilliant and provocative annual address delivered before the society by Professor Edgar B. Wesley at the eighty-ninth annual meeting, held on January 10. Professor Wesley took as his subject "History at Home" and contended that local history is "the beginning and the end of

¹A report presented at the afternoon session of the ninetieth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society in the Historical Building, St. Paul, on January 16, 1939. *Ed.*

our historical efforts." History, he said, not only begins at home, but is written there and has its chief utility there. The annual meeting was a suitable occasion for preaching such doctrine, for it opened with a local history conference and included in its several sessions a number of other papers and addresses emphasizing the local historical approach. The society held its sixteenth annual summer tour and convention on July 29 and 30, going to the North Shore and holding sessions at Gooseberry State Park, Duluth, and old Fond du Lac. Among the speakers were the Wisconsin historian, Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, and the novelist, Mrs. Margaret Culkin Banning of Duluth. The closing session, which attracted an audience of six thousand persons, consisted of the presentation by the members of the Northwest Territory pioneer caravan of a pageant entitled "Freedom on the March," commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Ordinance of 1787 and the coming of American settlers into the Old Northwest. The summer conventions continue to stir wide public interest because they set up a correlation between history and particular places and regions. After last summer's tour one newspaper editor, commenting on this correlation, wrote that as a result the "Local record and, in a sense, history in its entirety, take on the vigor of real life."

Among the problems confronting the society is that of extending its membership. At the end of the year 1938, there were 1,315 active members, 198 subscribing schools and libraries, and 47 institutional members, making a general total of 1,560, as compared with 1,570 a year ago. There was an increase of an even dozen in subscribing schools and libraries and of 4 in institutional members, but despite the enrollment of 65 new active members and the reinstatement of 3, there was a general decrease of 26 in this category, owing to the loss of 31 through death and the dropping of 63 as a result of nonpayment of dues. The general membership of the society is large as compared with

many historical societies throughout the country, but the active co-operation of present members is vitally needed if we are to maintain and to extend the membership. It is to be hoped also that the number of contributing life members — now only 10 — will be substantially increased.

The society's quarterly magazine, *MINNESOTA HISTORY*, completed its nineteenth volume in 1938. It contains seventeen formal articles in addition to nearly forty other items and, with its index, will make a volume of more than five hundred pages. The attention given in the magazine to social and economic history is perhaps notable. Its articles include accounts of two Minnesota agricultural leaders, Wendelin Grimm and Professor T. L. Haecker; studies of such homely aspects of frontier life as words and phrases used by pioneers and their home remedies and sanitation; the story of the rise of baseball in Minnesota; an essay in two parts on a notable pioneer cultural leader, Henry M. Nichols; Professor Wesley's address on "History at Home"; an account of the early western fur trade; and numerous other subjects. Professor Allan Nevins of Columbia University recently wrote that the magazine had no more appreciative reader than himself. "I read it almost from cover to cover," he said, "and treasure the old issues."

Other publications of the year include the quarterly *Check List of Minnesota Public Documents* and the monthly *Minnesota Historical News*. A volume of unusual interest now nearly ready for publication consists of the diaries of two pioneer farmers of Minnesota in the period from the 1840's to the 1860's. These have been edited, with an introductory essay, by Dr. Rodney C. Loehr of the University of Minnesota. Considerable editorial progress has been made during the year on various other volumes of historical material, including the Graham travel diary, which records the experiences of an English hunter in the Northwest in 1847, and a collection of missionary documents relating to the Red River Valley, both edited by Dr. Nute; a selection of the

writings of the frontier journalist, James M. Goodhue, edited by Mrs. Berthel; and sundry special bulletins, notably a guide to the records of organizations as preserved in the society's manuscript division, and a bibliography of the writings of Dr. Warren Upham.

The society's need of a special endowment to be used in forwarding the editing and publishing of basic sources for the history of Minnesota and the Northwest becomes greater with every year. As long ago as 1929 my predecessor, Dr. Buck, termed this a pressing need. It has not been met in the intervening years. Meanwhile, our wealth of unpublished sources becomes greater and greater—diaries, letters, narratives, and other records that should be put before the world in published form. A year ago I suggested the great usefulness that donations or bequests for this cause would have, and I venture here to repeat the suggestion.

Year by year the society continues to build up its historical treasures, a fundamental task in which success depends upon many factors, including patient staff work, the increasing prestige of the society, and the spread of popular interest in Minnesota history. The library was enriched during 1938 by the addition of 2,794 books, pamphlets, and bound volumes of newspapers, bringing the total count to 197,654, which includes 3,679 pamphlets that have been classified in the society's newly organized pamphlet file. Currently received periodicals total 950, of which 421 are published in Minnesota; and the society is filing 548 current newspapers, 478 of which are published in this state. Nearly sixty per cent of the year's library accessions were received as gifts.

Among many interesting additions to the newspaper collection are a partial file of a Finnish newspaper, *Uusi Kottimaa*, published at New York Mills; a large collection of Minnesota German papers; a group of miscellaneous labor newspapers from the late nineties; and a few issues of the rare *Sauk Rapids Frontierman*. Newly acquired library items of special interest include rare volumes by Crespel,

Hennepin, and Lahontan from the French period and films and photostats of a number of early Minnesota pamphlets. The Minnesota chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy made available a fund for the purchase of books relating to the history of the South; and such organizations as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of Founders and Patriots have aided the society in building up its genealogical collection. These activities suggest the desirability, both for organizations and individuals, of setting up in the society's library special collections in given fields, sometimes, perhaps, in the form of memorials commemorating events or honoring individuals.

The manuscript collection, with 193 accessions, some of them representing extensive collections of papers, enjoyed a normal growth during the year. The personal papers of several political leaders were received, including those of John Nicols, a pioneer state senator and university regent; Leonard A. Rosing, prominent in the Democratic party about the turn of the century; and the late Governor Floyd B. Olson. Important additions were made to the papers of Hans Mattson, one-time secretary of state in Minnesota and an influential promoter of immigration; and a notable collection of papers was received from Dr. Henry M. Bracken, secretary of the Minnesota state board of health from 1897 to 1919. The great variety of subjects touched upon in new collections of personal papers may be judged from the fact that they include the records of the Hutchinson family, founders of the Minnesota town that bears their name and nationally famous in the 1850's and 1860's for their concerts; Henry M. Nichols, pioneer colonizer, minister, and cultural leader; members of the Harrington and Pendergast families of Hutchinson; Sylvanus B. Lowry, pioneer of St. Cloud; Irvin Grant, a telegraph operator of 1868; Theophilus L. Haecker, the "father of dairying in Minnesota"; Edwin H. Brown, a Minneapolis architect; Ransom J. Powell, a Minneapolis attorney; Hiram W.

Slack, a St. Paul educator; and Mrs. Beatrice Gjertsen Besesen, a noted opera singer. Many of these collections are of particular interest from the point of view of the social and economic history of Minnesota and the Northwest.

Not a few important diaries, originals or copies, have been obtained by the society. Minnesota exploration is represented by that of James E. Colhoun, astronomer and assistant topographer with the Stephen H. Long expedition of 1823; and life at old Fort Snelling is pictured in a diary kept at the frontier post in 1827 by Colonel Josiah Snelling himself. The latter is supplemented by a book of orders kept at the fort in 1826 and 1828. Frontier life in the fifties is reflected in the diaries of Samuel C. Gale of Minneapolis and Benjamin Drew of St. Paul; and in a fascinating record kept by Governor Ramsey while on a trip to the upper Mississippi country in 1850. The society is gradually building up a remarkable collection of diaries relating to farm life and agricultural development; and to this collection have recently been added diaries kept by Nimrod Barrick in Meeker County from 1871 to 1932; by John W. Murray of Excelsior from 1864 to 1873; and by Edward H. S. Dartt of Steele County from 1873 to 1901. Newly acquired reminiscent narratives include those of Julia A. Wood, a pioneer journalist and novelist of Sauk Rapids who wrote under the pen name of "Minnie Mary Lee"; Calvin R. Fix, a Scott County pioneer and a soldier in the Civil War; and the Reverend Joseph Goiffon, a Catholic missionary in the Red River Valley. Of interest also in connection with Minnesota missions is the manuscript of a Sioux-English dictionary compiled by John F. Aiton, a missionary at Red Wing's village in 1848.

The society has had considerable success in recent years in enriching its collection of the archives of churches and organizations. During 1938 it has acquired the records of the First Covenant Church of St. Paul; the Mapleton Congregational Church; and Swedish Methodist Episcopal

churches in Evansville, Melby, Colfax, and Farwell; and it has added the records of two women's societies of the Macalester Presbyterian Church of St. Paul; the Trades and Labor Assembly of St. Paul; the Community League of Oxboro Heath; the Thirteenth Minnesota Regimental Association; the Litchfield Cemetery Association; the Rover's Club of Excelsior; the Columbian Club of Minneapolis; the Minnesota Academy of Medicine; and St. Agnes Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters, a fraternal benefit society of St. Paul.

Meanwhile, the society has cast a wide net for Minnesota historical materials preserved abroad or in other parts of this country. This effort has brought in copies of more than a hundred "America letters," the originals of which are preserved in Norway; transcripts of numerous articles about Minnesota in eastern newspapers; and filmstrips of ten thousand pages of records in the archives of the American Home Missionary Society in Chicago, of some thirteen hundred pages of church archives at St. Boniface, Manitoba, and of three hundred items in the National Archives at Washington.

The collections in the museum were enlarged in 1938 by 1,178 gifts which are classified as historical, ethnological, archaeological, and numismatic. There were also added 2,784 pictures, which bring the society's picture collection to a grand total of 63,889. This particular collection, it may be noted, has grown by about twenty-six thousand items in the past ten years. The society also has a large collection of negatives, slides, and cuts, to which about eight hundred additions were made in 1938. A painting of unusual interest received recently is a view of Minnehaha Falls executed in 1903 by the Danish scenic artist, Peter G. Clausen. Nearly a hundred items were added to the collection of early telephone equipment presented last year by Mr. George W. Johnson. An interesting item of furniture recently acquired for the museum is a Governor Winthrop desk from 1789.

Uniforms and military equipment of the Spanish War period that belonged to the late Captain William B. Folwell were added to the collection of Folwell family material, which has also had important manuscript additions.

One of the most notable of all gifts to the society is the Frank B. Kellogg memorial, which consists of an extraordinary collection of robes, hoods, medals, and diplomas and other certificates of honor, all illustrating the services and achievements of the late Frank B. Kellogg. Thanks to the generous interest of the senator, as recorded in his will, and of Mrs. Kellogg, this colorful and historically valuable collection has been transferred to the society and installed in four special wall cases, three table cases, and eight wall panels. At the central point in the display is a copy of De Laslo's oil portrait of Senator Kellogg, made especially for this collection at the instance of Mrs. Kellogg, to whom the thanks and appreciation of the society and the state are richly due. The collection was inaugurated by a special ceremony held in the society's building on December 12.

The Historical Records Survey, directed by Mr. Hodnefield and employing a large staff of WPA workers, has functioned throughout the year and has a substantial record of achievement. Its survey of the county archives has been completed in all the counties of the state; it has published three additional county inventories; and it has others in process of publication. It has also brought out inventories of certain classes of federal archives preserved in this state, notably for the departments of agriculture, treasury, and navy. Its surveys of records include municipalities, townships, schools, cemeteries, organizations, manuscript collections, and many other groups, and it has recently taken over the task of making an inventory of early American imprints preserved in institutions in Minnesota. In all these fields its work amounts to a systematic stocktaking with respect to historical materials in this state. As its mimeographed inventories mount in number and widen in scope, the great

value of the records survey will be more fully realized by officials, local history workers, and many others.

The society's special WPA project has operated during the year with a personnel of approximately thirty under the general supervision of the curator of the museum. This project, devoting itself to nonroutine undertakings, has made many important contributions, among which may be mentioned additional miniature models of historical scenes, the advance of the picture index, the repair of newspapers, books, and manuscripts, the transcription of accounts of early Minnesota travels and other records, the cleaning and arrangement of documents, the completion of the card index to the Minnesota names in the census of 1860, additions to the newspaper bibliography, inventorying and other library enterprises, the mapping of historic trails and sites, and the construction of cases, card files, and other kinds of furniture and equipment for the various departments of the society. The society similarly owes much to the general Capitol WPA project, which, save for the installation of heating, virtually completed the construction of the upper terrace addition and has also extended heating and ventilation to the lower terrace room. The task of installing one level of steel stacks in the lower area has made relatively slow progress, but so much has been done that there is promise of occupation during the coming year. The lower and upper terrace projects should prove a boon to the society both for newspaper filing and for general storage and filing.

In every department strenuous efforts have been made to carry forward the routine of accessioning and cataloguing, of arranging and filing materials, of indexing, and of general administration; but the pressure of public demands upon the time of the staff, coupled with the plain fact that the staff has not been expanded as its work has almost doubled, has created many difficulties. The library catalogued 2,281 items in 1938 and added 17,517 cards to the various card index files. The Minnesota biographical index

was enlarged by 1,106 new cards, and 3,503 cards were received and filed in the American genealogical index. The special index of coats of arms grew by fifteen hundred new cards, and some three thousand additions were made to old entries.

The museum arranged 45 special exhibits, completed through the WPA project five new miniature historical groups, advanced the picture index by 13,501 cards, and added considerable equipment such as wall and group cases and index files. The museum curator, in the course of his year's work, has made no fewer than eighteen field trips outside the Twin Cities to advance the interests of the society. In the manuscript division the index to the census of 1860, completed under the WPA project, was installed in a special file. The division faces a crisis in its need for additional personnel, for the manuscript collection has become one of the great divisions of the society, with complex problems of administration coupled with a phenomenal increase of public use. It is therefore essential that under the new budget it should have a new full-time assistant. Despite its burdens, however, it has arranged many large collections of manuscripts, advanced its photographic work, added a film desk reader and other new equipment, supervised the cleaning, overhauling, and inventorying of the War Records Commission archives, arranged a number of special exhibits in the hall cases, and carried on a considerable amount of field work in its ceaseless search for new manuscript materials to add to the collection.

Dr. Nute was in Europe on leave from May to August, searching for Minnesota materials in archives and special collections in several countries, notably Sweden, where she collected data on the backgrounds of the Lindbergh family, and in England and Scotland. In Edinburgh, in the papers of Lord Strathcona, she examined several volumes of Northwest Company papers and made arrangements for reproducing much material relating to early Minnesota. She

also found and copied Minnesota historical records in the Hudson's Bay Company archives in London. On her return she stopped at West Point to photograph eighteen original water-color paintings of the pioneer artist Peter Rindisbacher, most of them of early Minnesota scenes. In November she made a trip to Winnipeg, gave three addresses there, forwarded good will and co-operation between our own society and the society in Manitoba, and also secured microfilms of many documents of special Minnesota interest.

The newspaper department, too, is coping with difficult problems of administration occasioned in part by the vast increase in the use of its resources and in part by the lack of adequate space both for readers and for filing its collections. When the stacks and shelves are installed in the lower terrace, the filing problem will be met, but the problem of the reading room offers no immediate solution. The mere task of receiving, recording, and filing more than five hundred newspapers regularly bulks large in the work of the newspaper department. It has also arranged for the binding of 570 volumes and, with WPA assistance, has repaired some 3,500 separate issues of newspapers. It keeps in constant touch with editors and publishers the state over in order to secure new papers as they appear from time to time. The head of the department has also made frequent field trips in search of old files and other historical records. The work on the great project of a bibliography and inventory of newspaper files has been advanced steadily. Final drafts were completed during the year on twenty-one counties, so that, in all, the work has now been finished on forty-seven of the eighty-seven counties of the state. The department is also co-operating with the Minneapolis Public Library in a great WPA project for indexing Minneapolis newspapers. This project, it may be added, is under the supervision of Miss Gratia A. Countryman, a member of the society's executive council.

Perhaps the outstanding fact about the society and its work during 1938 has been the unprecedented use of its collections by the public. The manuscript division has served 1,849 students and readers, more than the combined total of the four years from 1929 to 1932. Similarly, the museum, with a general attendance of about 43,000, has had visits from 369 school classes, the largest number for one year in the society's history. These classes brought to the Historical Building 10,830 teachers and pupils. In the newspaper department there were 3,416 readers, as compared with 2,685 in 1937, and these readers called for nearly 11,000 bound volumes and more than 95,000 copies of current issues. Turning to the main library, the record discloses the fact that it has met the needs of 5,882 readers, a figure that may be compared with 4,025 four years ago. The various departments report users not only from our own state but from nearly twenty other states of the Union and from various foreign countries. Legislators and other state officials, scholars from various universities and colleges, novelists, local history workers, journalists and special writers, clergymen, business and professional men and women, genealogists, and scores of other classes and groups are represented. All this reflects an increasing public appreciation of the richness of the society's collections and it means increasing public service. At the same time, it is making even more critical the need for additional staff assistance and is compelling us to re-examine carefully the problem of accommodations. For the manuscript division, which now serves as many people in three months as it did in an entire year a decade ago, the increase of public service has meant "more tables, more chairs, more racks, more supervision, more page work, more repairs, and more calls upon the time of an extremely busy staff." A similar situation obtains in the museum and in other departments, and the society must find the means of meeting it adequately.

Closely allied to the public use of the society's collection

are the activities of the staff along public educational lines. The "Information Bureau," for example, handled during the year 375 requests for information about Minnesota history that came by mail, not to mention a much larger number of telephone inquiries, all representing a wide range of interest, with the Kensington rune stone holding first place in public curiosity. About ten members of the staff have responded to requests for talks and papers from clubs, local societies, radio stations, and regional and national organizations. In all, approximately seventy such requests have been met. Since they have largely centered about Minnesota history and the work of the society, it is safe to conclude that they have been of considerable value in promoting public interest in the society's objectives.

In appraising the advance of historical interest in Minnesota in recent years, it is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the local history movement. It seems to gather momentum as time goes on. In 1938, for example, seven new county historical societies were formed. Today no fewer than fifty-five local historical societies are active throughout the state, whereas less than two decades ago there were none. Many excellent local museums have been built up and not a few of them receive thousands of visitors each year. Most of these museums are in courthouses or public libraries, but in some communities—New Ulm and Mankato, for example—the societies are now housed in splendid buildings of their own. From all parts of the state come reports of meetings, growing membership, the collecting of local historical records, the exchange of ideas, and numerous other signs of vigorous life. It is pleasant to be able to add that the state society has not only sponsored and encouraged the movement as a whole, but has also co-operated with the various local societies since their organization.

This year has witnessed a number of historical activities of general interest in which the society has played a part.

A member of the executive council—Senator Lawson—served as chairman of the state commission for the Northwest Territory sesquicentennial celebration in Minnesota, and the superintendent was its secretary-treasurer. The commission undertook many activities, but its principal concern was to arrange for the coming of the Northwest Territory pioneer caravan, which made a circuit of Minnesota from July 30 to August 18 and presented the Northwest Territory pageant in seventeen communities. For the Swedish-American tercentenary, in which Senator Lawson was also active, the society arranged special exhibits of books, newspapers, and manuscripts. The society has taken an active part in the great project for building at Grand Portage a replica of the eighteenth-century Northwest Company post, assembling historical data, managing through Mr. Babcock the archaeological work, and advising with Indian service officials on all details of reconstruction, which has already included the erection of most of the stockade. Similarly the society has advised and co-operated with the state park authorities in the excavation of the site of the Joseph R. Brown house near Sacred Heart, burned at the time of the Sioux Outbreak. The site is now a state park and the Brown mansion, after careful exploration of the ground under the supervision of Mr. Richard Sackett of the Historical Records Survey, is to be reconstructed. Through its WPA project the society has co-operated with the State Geographic Board in making a card index of Minnesota geographic names, preparatory to the compilation of a gazetteer, and in planning to change the names of some of the numerous Mud, Round, Long, and other lakes for which there are numerous duplicates. The manuscript division has co-operated with the park authorities in work on a map of historic trails and sites in the Northwest; and the society has also worked with the State Planning Board in its investigation of possibilities for new state parks, including such historic areas as Fort St. Charles, Nininger, and Frontenac.

Notwithstanding the unusual pressure of routine duties, staff members have managed to carry on a certain amount of research and writing and to express their professional interests in other ways. Dr. Nute is the author of the historical introduction to the new translation of Hennepin's *Description of Louisiana*, recently issued by the University of Minnesota Press. She continues to serve on the editorial board of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* and has written articles for MINNESOTA HISTORY and the forthcoming "Dictionary of American History." She attended the annual meetings of the Society of American Archivists and the American Historical Association. Mr. Babcock has written many articles for the "Dictionary of American History," prepared several papers and addresses, managed the archaeological project at Grand Portage, directed the society's WPA enterprise, and attended a meeting in Chicago of the Upper Mississippi Valley Ethno-History Committee. Mr. Larsen has given much attention to the work on a gazetteer of state geographic names. In June he was awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy by the University of Minnesota, having completed a dissertation on the history of the Minnesota road system. Miss Ackermann wrote an interesting article for the society's quarterly and also contributed, as did Dr. Nute, to the American Library Association's volume entitled *Public Documents*. She attended the meeting of that association in Kansas City and presented a paper there. Mrs. Berthel undertook the revision of the *Guide to the State Capitol*, soon to be brought out by the state auditor. Miss Fawcett wrote a report on Minnesota's western boundary for MINNESOTA HISTORY. Miss Heilbron has continued her studies of Minnesota artists, published several articles and documents in the quarterly, and made a series of visits to county historical museums throughout the state. Mrs. Warming revised Minnesota articles for several encyclopedias and contributed more than three hundred corrections and additions to the

Union Serial List. Mrs. Brower has continued her bibliography of Minnesota fiction. Many staff members have written articles for the weekly series on state history appearing in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. The superintendent, among other things, published a book entitled *Building Minnesota* and also compiled a volume of *Readings in Early Minnesota History*. He has recently been elected a member of the advisory board of the American Council of Learned Societies.

The staff has met the problems of a heavy year with high efficiency and well deserves the thanks of the society. There were few staff changes. Miss Olive Clark, however, who has given nineteen years of faithful and effective service as museum assistant, was compelled by ill health to resign her position late in the year. In the early fall Elaine P. Cullen resigned as catalogue typist and her position was filled by the appointment of Louise Hedberg Blad, formerly a member of the staff. Following Miss Clark's resignation, Mrs. Blad was promoted to the position of museum assistant. Perhaps the greatest loss sustained in 1938 was the death of Everett H. Bailey, who had held the office of treasurer from May 10, 1909, to November 10, 1938, and whose interest, integrity, faithfulness, and competence have left an abiding influence upon the Minnesota Historical Society.

In submitting the biennial budget estimates to the state government, the society's executive committee took into account the compelling need for additional assistance in some of the departments, notably the manuscript division and the museum. It therefore included two new positions, which account in considerable measure for an increase of \$3,200 in the salary estimates, enlarging the salary budget from \$32,500 per year to \$35,700. This increase, if granted, would make possible a few necessary salary adjustments in addition to the creation of two sorely needed new positions. In order to meet needs for supplies, equipment, and the like, the committee requested \$15,500 for the first year of the biennium.

and \$17,500 for the second. Only one other feature of the budget calls for mention and that is a request for additional funds of \$9,000 to complete the newspaper stacks and shelves and to provide, in addition, some badly needed map filing equipment. The estimates are based upon a realistic appraisal of the society's needs and a desire to promote its effectiveness in meeting the problems that its growth and success have created.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

THE 1939 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE COMPLETION OF nine decades of continuous activity by Minnesota's oldest institution — the Minnesota Historical Society — was commemorated by its members and friends on January 16 when they assembled in St. Paul for its ninetieth annual meeting. The opening session, the nineteenth annual conference on local history work in Minnesota, was called to order by Mr. Otto E. Wieland, president of the St. Louis County Historical Society, in the Historical Building at 10:00 A.M. Some eighty people, including representatives of at least sixteen county and municipal historical organizations, attended the conference.

The first speaker, Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, assistant editor on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, reviewed "Local Historical Activity in Minnesota in 1938." She opened by calling attention to the new historical societies organized in the past year in Clearwater, Grant, Hennepin, Kittson, Pennington, Scott, and Waseca counties, pointing out that with these seven additions, the number of societies in the state totals fifty-five. All these organizations have become active since 1922, and all but eighteen have had their origin in the decade of the 1930's. Thus the local history movement is a comparatively recent affair in Minnesota. The speaker went on to show what these societies stand for, what evidences of vitality and growth they are exhibiting. She asserted that a number have membership rolls that include from one to three hundred names, with the largest in Clay and Crow Wing counties; that individual societies held from one to a dozen meetings in 1938; that several societies placed markers on sites of historic interest; that the majority have established museums in courthouses, schools, village armories, public libraries, community buildings, and the like;

that a few, notably those in Brown and Blue Earth counties, have acquired and equipped special museum buildings; and that valuable collections of museum objects, pictures, manuscripts, and newspapers are being assembled and preserved in these museums. "If there are any doubts about the usefulness of the local societies," said the speaker, "they can be dispelled by an examination of the visitors' registers that are kept in many of the local museums."

Mr. William M. Goetzinger of Elbow Lake, the second speaker on the conference program, represented one of the seven new historical societies organized in 1938, that in Grant County. He traced briefly the backgrounds of this rich section of the Red River Valley, which is on the route of one of the Red River trails and which was occupied to a large extent by Scandinavian settlers. Some of the problems that the historical society in this area has to face were suggested. Museum objects and other items assembled since its organization last May are now kept in the office of the judge of probate, according to Mr. Goetzinger, but the society has the promise of more adequate quarters when a new courthouse is erected. He was followed by Mr. George A. Langmack of the women's and professional division of the WPA in St. Paul, who discussed "The WPA and Local History Work in Minnesota." He asserted that the WPA looks upon its activities in supplementing the work of the state and local historical societies as a contribution to the conservation of Minnesota history and its materials; and he surveyed what has been done to assist historical activity in Ramsey, Hennepin, Stearns, Wilkin, Otter Tail, and other counties. Newspaper files in some fifteen communities are being indexed under WPA auspices, he revealed. He also discussed the program of the Historical Records Survey, which has completed surveys of the archives of every county in the state and is now publishing the results. This survey "is so broad that work to be done appears to be endless," said Mr. Langmack. Among the tasks for the future that he suggested are

the publication of surveys of state archives and of municipal, township, and school records. Lists of cemeteries, historic sites, monuments and markers, historic buildings, historic trails, and the like, also should be made available.

For the final address of the morning, Mr. Wieland called upon Professor Edgar B. Wesley of the University of Minnesota, the author of a recently published history of Owatonna, who appropriately chose as his subject, "The Writing of Local History." He undertook to enumerate the problems involved in the writing of local history, and to define the methods of gathering and organizing material for such a study. Among the difficulties that the local historian must face, according to Dr. Wesley, are the fact that his readers are apt to be fairly familiar with his subject, that local history is usually undramatic, that it is almost always social in character, and that few models are available. He advised the prospective author of a local history first to delimit the area of the community he wishes to study; and then to survey the available sources in the form of books, newspapers, public archives, school, church, and cemetery records, manuscripts, and interviews with pioneers. Dr. Wesley suggested more than twenty headings under which material can be organized after it is assembled; among them are geography, population, industry, political issues, government, public utilities, social organizations, churches, schools, libraries, newspapers, health, art, music, sports, and entertainments. In concluding the speaker warned the writer of local history to avoid too narrow a concept, too local an approach, a stereotyped organization, and an apologetic attitude in preparing such a work, but at the same time to make sure that his history is truly local, and not a mere segment of state or national history.

Among those who participated in the discussion that followed the conference were Mr. S. S. Beach, president of the Hutchinson Historical Society, who stressed the importance of enlisting the interest of younger members of the commu-

nity in the work of the local historical society; Mr. Dana W. Frear, vice-president of the newly organized Hennepin County Historical Society, who urged local leaders to bend their best efforts toward the preservation of local archives and public records; and Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the state historical society, who suggested that local historians who undertake the writing of community history should use Dr. Wesley's volume on Owatonna as a model.

About a hundred and thirty-five people gathered at the St. Paul Athletic Club at 12:15 P. M. for the annual luncheon and the program that followed it. Mr. Edward C. Gale, president of the society, who presided, reminded the audience of its debt to the pioneers who organized the society ninety years ago and then called upon Mr. LeRoy G. Davis of Sleepy Eye for a paper on "Some Frontier Institutions." Readers of this magazine will recall that Mr. Davis, a Minnesota pioneer of 1866, has contributed to its pages unusual articles on words and phrases and home remedies and sanitation with which he was familiar as a resident of the frontier. The paper on such pioneer institutions as the country store, the blacksmith shop, the country school, the lyceum, and the frontier church, which he read on the luncheon program, appears elsewhere in this issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY. There also is to be found the paper presented by the next speaker, Dean E. M. Freeman of the college of agriculture, forestry, and home economics in the University of Minnesota, who took as his subject, "A Scientist Looks at History." His essay is a notable contribution to a series of discussions, inaugurated in 1933, which in past years have given opportunities to a businessman, a journalist, a doctor, a novelist, and a librarian to present before the society their views of history.

Some ways in which history and science are related were strikingly illustrated by the final speaker on this program, Evadene Burris Swanson of St. Paul, a graduate stu-

dent in history in the University of Minnesota. She presented to the audience some of the "Observations on Minnesota Game Animals" that she has discovered in the letters, diaries, and published works of explorers, traders, sportsmen, and scientists who visited the Minnesota country while it retained its frontier characteristics. Among the men whose writings she exploited are Father Louis Hennepin, Jonathan Carver, David Thompson, Giacomo C. Beltrami, Henry H. Sibley, George W. Featherstonhaugh, Charles Lanman, and Henry David Thoreau. Lanman, who visited Minnesota as a sportsman in 1846, "killed fifty grouse in one afternoon near the Crow Wing River on the east bank of the Mississippi," according to Mrs. Swanson. It is not surprising that a dragoon who traversed the region with an expedition three years later felt called upon to issue the following "flippant warning to the United States government": "Uncle, the stock in your great pasture is getting thinned out."

For the business meeting of the society, about seventy-five people gathered in the Historical Building at 3:00 P. M., with Mr. Gale presiding. The report of the society's treasurer was read by Mr. Charles Stees, a member of the society's executive council. Upon its completion, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen read extracts from the report on "The Minnesota Historical Society in 1938" which is published in full in this issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY. The following thirty members of the society were then elected to serve as members of its executive council during the triennium 1939-42: Julian B. Baird, Henry N. Benson, Theodore C. Blegen, Mrs. Charles C. Bovey, Kenneth Brill, Ralph Budd, the Reverend William Busch, Homer P. Clark, the Reverend James Connolly, Gratia A. Countryman, William W. Cutler, Burt W. Eaton, Bert Fesler, Guy Stanton Ford, Edward C. Gale, Julius E. Haycraft, Louis W. Hill, Jr., Jefferson Jones, August C. Krey, Nathaniel P. Langford, Victor E. Lawson, Mrs. Clarkson Lindley, Dr. Thomas B. Magath, Andrew J.

Newgren, Dillon J. O'Brien, Ira C. Oehler, Lester B. Shippee, Charles Stees, Royal A. Stone, and Mrs. Edward B. Young. Later in the afternoon the new executive council met in the superintendent's office and elected the following officers for the next three years: Ira C. Oehler, president; Lester B. Shippee and Julius E. Haycraft, vice-presidents; Julian B. Baird, treasurer; and Theodore C. Blegen, secretary. On this occasion also Mr. Homer P. Clark of St. Paul read the tribute to the memory of Everett H. Bailey which appears elsewhere in this issue.

After the business meeting, Mr. Gale called upon Mr. Richard R. Sackett, assistant supervisor of the Minnesota Historical Records Survey, for a paper on "The Joseph R. Brown Memorial Wayside" which is being established near Sacred Heart in Renville County. There in 1861 one of Minnesota's most picturesque pioneers built a pretentious home that was destroyed by Indians in the Sioux Outbreak of August, 1862. Some jagged bits of stone walls were all that remained to remind the visitor that members of the Brown family once lived on this site. Recently, however, it has been the scene of great activity, for on June 5, 1938, a crew of WPA workers, engaged in a project for the Minnesota department of state parks, began to excavate the site. Mr. Sackett, who directed this archaeological investigation, gave a vivid description of its results and told of the plans for the restoration of the house as a "memorial wayside." "Under debris and rubbish from two to six feet in depth were found scores of interesting items that had once been the contents of this great house," said the speaker. He enumerated many of the items that have been identified and noted that this list "proved more than interesting when compared with" an inventory of property destroyed by the Indians prepared by Mrs. Brown shortly after the outbreak. As a result of these excavations also, said Mr. Sackett, the "original layout of rooms on the ground floor" of the mansion has been determined, and much additional information about the ar-

rangement and construction of the remainder of its three and a half stories has been made available.

The feature of the evening session, which convened in the Historical Building at 8:00 P. M., was the annual address by Professor Walter S. Campbell of the University of Oklahoma. Writing under the pseudonym of "Stanley Vestal," he has published many books and articles dealing with various phases of American Indian life and history. In introducing this speaker to the audience of about a hundred and thirty people, Judge Julius E. Haycraft of Fairmont, who presided, called attention to his many notable contributions to the literature of the frontier West, including his biographies of Sitting Bull and Kit Carson. On this occasion Professor Campbell chose to discuss "The Humanity of the American Indian," revealing at the outset that his "estimate of this people is necessarily based chiefly upon observations made of the Plains Indians," with whom he has had considerable contact. He opened by analyzing certain "misconceptions of the Indian" that have been prevalent. The white man, he said, has thought of the Indian at various times and under varying conditions as a "child of nature," as a "red devil," as the "noble savage," or as a member of an "inevitably vanishing race." "There is some truth in all these notions," said the speaker, "but none of them quite coincides" with his own experience of the Plains Indians. He then went on to explain that:

Undoubtedly, the Indian was to some degree a child of nature, who understood enough of the animals he preyed upon to hunt successfully, who had some knowledge of the curative properties of plants, and who had strong family affections, consideration for his relatives, for women, and for the aged; a man whose ruling passion was his child; a man who could show great loyalty to his tribe, and be hospitable to strangers. So far so good. Again the red devil had some basis in fact, as you in Minnesota are well aware. He could endure great hardships, and when he went to war, he had no code of chivalry which would prevent him from wreaking all his force upon his enemies. Against them, almost anything was justified. The noble savage was also not unknown,

though he had his own standards of nobility. And undoubtedly many tribes and nations have vanished forever, swept away by the white man's vices, diseases, and wars.

Judging from his own experience, Mr. Campbell described the Indian as "an Oriental," who is very conventional and, above all, respectable; an "impulsive, moody, sociable fellow," who loves crowds, dances, feasts, ceremonies, color, and finery; a "yes-man" and "something of a show-off." The virtues that the Plains Indians most admired were "courage, fortitude, generosity, and fecundity," according to the speaker. But the red man "found the white soldier hard-hearted and callous; the white trader grasping; and the white emigrant over-cautious," and "he had little respect for them, because he despised cowardice, stinginess, and sharp practice." The Indian's "virtues and weaknesses were partly racial, but they were more often the result of his upbringing. . . . He was what most of us would be if we were subjected to similar circumstances, traditions, and a narrow village society."

Following Professor Campbell's address, Judge Haycraft invited members of the audience to adjourn to the west room of the museum for an informal reception. Upon this note of sociability, the ninetieth annual meeting of the society was brought to a close.

B. L. H.

SOME SOURCES FOR NORTHWEST HISTORY

RINDISBACHER'S MINNESOTA WATER COLORS

ONE OF THE EARLIEST and least-known artists of the Minnesota scene was Peter Rindisbacher, a young Swiss of the 1820's. An earlier attempt to evaluate his work mentioned paintings that have survived in Ottawa, Washington, and other places.¹ Most of them are of general western interest, but not primarily of Minnesota origin. It may interest some readers to learn that the eighteen water colors at West Point, mentioned in the earlier article, have now been examined and are found to be practically all representations of Minnesota places and people.

In the summer of 1938 the author called at the library of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where these water colors were reported to be. It turned out that they were in the Ordnance Museum. There every facility was afforded her to examine them and photograph them on color film. Prints from these films are now in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. Inquiry was made as to the date when the pictures reached the museum or the academy and how they chanced to be there. The earliest reference to them was discovered in a catalogue of 1898. Who presented them or when they were received could not be determined.

The *Catalogue* of the Ordnance Museum of the United States Military Academy, prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Earl McFarland in 1929, lists the paintings as follows: "'Keoke,' a Distinguished Sac Chief"; "Indian Women in Tent"; "Scene in Indian Tent"; "Fight between Two Indians, One with Lance, the Other with Bow and Arrow"; "Indian Taking Scalp"; "Chippewa Mode of Traveling in

¹ See Grace Lee Nute, "Peter Rindisbacher, Artist," *ante*, 14: 283-287.



CHIPPEWA MODE OF TRAVELING IN WINTER



CHIPPEWA MODE OF TRAVELING IN SPRING AND SUMMER

[From water colors by Peter Rindisbacher, in the possession of the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.]



SCENE IN INDIAN TENT

[From a water color by Peter Rindisbacher, in the possession of the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.]

the Spring and Summer"; "Chippewa Mode of Traveling in Winter"; "Trout Fall Portage in the Hudson Bay Country"; "Chippewa Canoe"; "Indian War Dance"; "Winnebago War Dance"; "An Indian Chief in War Dress, Mounted"; "The Murder of David Tully and Family by the Sissatoons, a Sioux Tribe"; "Chippeway Scalp Dance"; "Drunken Frolick amongst the Chippeways and Assineboins"; "The Bison Attacked by the Dog Trains"; "Mode of Chasing the Bison by the Assiniboin, a Sioux Tribe, Snow Shoes"; and "Indians Hunting the Bison." Three of these paintings are known to have been published. One reproduction is the lithograph entitled, "Sioux Warrior Charging," which appears in the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* for October, 1829, and which is reproduced with the article in MINNESOTA HISTORY for September, 1933.²

The view of "Indians Hunting the Bison" appears in color as the frontispiece of the second volume of Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall's *Indian Tribes of North America* (Edinburgh, 1934). In the "Notes" at the end of the section based on this reproduction, on pages 6 and 7, is an interesting discussion of Rindisbacher and his work, with the suggestion that probably at one time much of the Rindisbacher collection was in Philadelphia. It also refers to duplicates of paintings that are to be noted in the several extant groups of his productions. The "Indian War Dance" appears as the frontispiece of volume 1 of the same work, where it is entitled "War Dance of the Sauks and Foxes." A detailed description of the dance is supplied by Caleb Atwater, a prominent Wisconsin pioneer. On page 2, Rindisbacher is mentioned and a footnote purports to correct the title, explaining that the painting represents a war dance of the Winnebago. On the same page the author evaluates the

²The date of the *American Turf Register* is given erroneously as October, 1929, in the caption of the illustration appearing *ante*, 14:286. Rindisbacher's "American Hunter's Camp," which is reproduced in the *American Turf Register*, 11:493 (October, 1840), is not mentioned in the author's earlier article on this artist and his work.

water color: "This drawing is considered as one of his best efforts, and is valuable not so much as a specimen of art, in which respect it is in some particulars defective, as on account of the correct impression which it conveys of the scene intended to be represented. It was drawn on the spot as the scene was actually exhibited. The actors are persons of some note, and the faces are faithful likenesses." Atwater's remarks make it clear that the first title was correct, for he shows that the well-known Sauk and Fox warriors, Keokuk, Morgan, and Tiahma, are represented in the picture. A footnote on page 4 indicates that there are two other forms of this picture in existence: an oil painting in Washington, owned by Fred B. M'Guire, and a lithograph in Charles Augustus Murray's *Travels in North America during 1834, 1835, and 1836* (London, 1839).

It is possible to date at least roughly these eighteen paintings, which seem to be a group executed at one period, by an episode depicted in one of them. In 1823 a Swiss family by the name of Tully left the Red River settlements for the United States by way of Fort Snelling. En route David Tully, his wife, and their infant daughter were killed by a party of Sioux, and their two boys, John and Andrew, were taken captive. The most vivid of the eighteen pictures, "The Murder of David Tully and Family by the Sissatons," represents the Indians about to kill their unfortunate victims. So detailed is the picture that one is led to the conclusion that Rindisbacher witnessed what he depicted, or had very recent evidence from which to work. The aftermath of the murder is well known through the manuscript reminiscences of Henry Snelling, a playmate of John Tully.³ The latter and his brother were rescued by troops sent out from Fort Snelling. Snelling, a son of the commanding officer of the fort, gives a detailed account of the whole affair,

³ These reminiscences are preserved in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library, Chicago. The Minnesota Historical Society has a photostatic copy of the first volume, which covers the Minnesota portion of Snelling's life.

but makes no mention of Rindisbacher. It is likely that Rindisbacher's eighteen pictures were secured at this time by an officer at Fort Snelling, Fort Crawford, or another post on the Mississippi-Missouri River frontier. The fact that Keokuk and Winnebago Indians are the subjects of at least three pictures suggests that Rindisbacher parted with the pictures at Fort Crawford.

In the author's opinion these eighteen items surpass in workmanship, color, and general significance the other Rindisbacher items that she has seen. Their faithfulness to reality makes them of great value for the historian of Minnesota, particularly as all relate to Minnesota or adjacent territory. The Indians look like Indians, not like a poet's conception of the "noble red man." Rindisbacher was particularly interested in transportation methods in the Indian country, and he shows in his paintings the use of dog trains, travois, canoes, snowshoes, Indian ponies, carioles, and even a Red River cart. Probably there are no other faithful, graphic representations of these vehicles at such an early date. Family life among the Chippewa must have appealed to the artist, for at least seven of the paintings depict families, in canoes, traveling with their dogs, at a portage, in tepees, where a pleasing domesticity prevails in the midst of hearth and calumet smoke, participating in a drunken frolic, and in or near the two main types of Chippewa dwellings. The colors are soft, well blended, and admirably preserved.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

EVERETT HOSKINS BAILEY

EVERETT HOSKINS BAILEY was born at Jamestown, New York, on April 10, 1850, the son of Francis Parkman Bailey and Caroline Pier Bailey. As a boy he attended a preparatory school, Erie Academy at Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1866 he went to Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he remained until 1871, spending four years in preparatory and one in college work. On June 2, 1874, at Clear Lake, Minnesota, he married Jeanette L. Jones, a classmate at Antioch.

As was usual with young men of those times, Mr. Bailey began what was destined to become a distinguished career quite inconspicuously. He worked as a clerk in the banking house of Clark and Goodwin in Erie. In 1871 he decided to test out the opportunities of the new western territory, and transferred his business and civic activities to St. Paul, where he took a position as a clerk in the First National Bank of St. Paul. Later in the same year he became associated with the Second National Bank of Winona, where ultimately he became cashier. Little is known to me personally of his interest and activities at Winona during his brief residence there, but it is very probable that Everett Bailey exhibited the same wide interest in civic and business affairs which, fortunately for us, he later transferred to St. Paul. In 1873 he returned to the First National Bank of St. Paul, this time as teller. His natural ability and sound judgment resulted in steady promotion, until in 1907 he became president, succeeding Henry Pratt Upham, who incidentally was also deeply interested in the Minnesota Historical Society. Mr. Bailey became chairman of the board of directors of the First National Bank in 1917, and served

ably in that capacity until the consolidation with the Merchants National Bank in 1929. Everett Bailey was then in his eightieth year. Although he wished to be relieved of official duties, he was accustomed to spend several hours each day at his desk in the bank—a practice that he faithfully continued until his death on November 10, 1938, in his eighty-ninth year.

As a banker and business leader, Everett Bailey acquired a well-merited reputation for probity, soundness, and business foresight which made him outstanding in the community. His excellent background, training, and wide practical experience combined to develop those qualities of courage and carefulness so necessary at this time in our commercial and industrial life.

Mr. Bailey's great interest in and associations with the Minnesota Historical Society are too well known for me to recount here, but I would like to mention one or two outstanding points. In 1882 he became a life member of the Minnesota Historical Society, and he was elected to the executive council in 1903. In 1909 he became treasurer, a position that he retained until his death. His thoughtfulness in presenting the society with a painting of the Falls of St. Anthony in 1852, by R. Sloan, was much appreciated.

I should also like to mention briefly some of Mr. Bailey's many other activities in the community. He was an efficient chairman of the bankers group of the Twin Cities during the difficult and trying situation caused by the currency panic of 1907. For many years he served as treasurer of the St. Paul Union Depot Company and of the Minnesota Transfer Company, and he was president of the Northwestern Trust Company from 1903 to 1913. He served as a trustee of Miller Hospital of St. Paul from its inception. The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Minnesota long counted him among its members. A devoted attendant of Unity Church of St. Paul, he contributed much toward its upbuilding. As a life-long Republican, he was naturally

enthusiastic over the prospects of the November election. He was an ardent fisherman and hunter, and of late years he delighted in spending the summers at Isle Royale in Lake Superior.

Perhaps a little incident of Mr. Bailey's early life in Minnesota will serve to illustrate his qualities of simplicity and appreciation. When coming back to St. Paul from Winona in 1873, he started to drive with a horse and cutter, but unfortunately he was caught in a severe blizzard, finally becoming so chilled and numbed that he had to seek refuge under a buffalo robe at the bottom of the sleigh. The horse, left to its own devices in finding the way, went to a house where a light was burning, and stopped. It proved to be the home of a Mrs. Herlinger near Frontenac. Finding Mr. Bailey in a critical condition due to exposure, Mrs. Herlinger administered to his frost bites and took every care to guard against possible after effects. Mr. Bailey was most grateful for this kindness, feeling that perhaps his life had been saved. Many years later he was able to repay her for her kindness in a very substantial way.

Courtesy and tolerance of the views of others, combined with a rare generosity and sense of gratitude, were among Mr. Bailey's outstanding characteristics. As a natural result of his active interest in the affairs of city and state, his circle of friends was wide, not only in St. Paul but throughout the Northwest.

Mr. Bailey died in Miller Hospital on November 10, 1938. He is survived by his son, Frederick Stanwood Bailey of Ontario, Oregon. His friends will think of him as a rare example of a kindly, yet exact and efficient man.

HOMER P. CLARK

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Owatonna: The Social Development of a Minnesota Community.

By EDGAR BRUCE WESLEY, head of social studies department, University High School, and professor of education, University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1938. xvi, 168 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

Several years ago the late Melvin E. Haggerty, dean of the college of education in the University of Minnesota, projected a study of the cultural development of a small Minnesota city. Owatonna, the seat of Steele County, was selected for the study. This little history of Owatonna is a preliminary volume in a series contemplated by the directors of the Owatonna Art Education Project.

In six concise and interestingly written chapters, Professor Wesley traces the development of this Minnesota city. He tells how A. B. Cornell and W. F. Pettit, two pioneers who achieved no small reputation in Minnesota as town builders, speculators, and public figures, staked out claims on the site of present-day Owatonna in the early summer of 1854. In the following year the village was platted, and the newly founded community was named the seat of Steele County.

Owatonna, in its early years, was not very different from other frontier Minnesota towns. The force that transformed it from "an uncertain but hopeful settlement to the assured status of a Minnesota city," Professor Wesley says (p. 25), was the construction of railroads to the community in 1866. That fact made possible the growth of the community from a village with a population of about nine hundred and fifty in 1865 to a city of some seventy-five hundred people in 1930. It also made possible the development of an industrial community of no small importance. Professor Wesley tells us that early Owatonna businessmen "looked to railroads and industry to build a city that would far exceed the somewhat lowly status of a mere agricultural center" (p. 48). They established wagon factories, wood-working establishments, earthenware factories, breweries, and at one time they even started a hoop skirt factory. The community's interest in industrial development was illustrated in 1870 when a special bond issue of ten thousand dollars was voted to aid in rebuilding a foundry and

machine shop which had been destroyed by fire. The faith of the community in the venture was justified, for two years later the debt was repaid. It was in this shop, according to Professor Wesley, that John Appleby perfected his device for binding grain with twine instead of wire.

After about 1890, the author says, the community became increasingly aware of the possibilities afforded by industries related to agriculture. A growing program of crop diversification led to an increase in dairying, the raising of cattle and hogs, and the growth of feed crops such as corn. This, in turn, led to the development of processing and marketing agencies, and the increasing wealth of the agricultural community encouraged the development of new and varied industries. As early as 1881 there was a successful farmers' mutual fire insurance company, a butter churn concern ran profitably for several years in the nineties, an automobile factory was operated for a time after 1901, and a radio concern built one-tube radio sets in the early twenties. Quite unrelated to the agricultural community was a concern which specialized in the manufacture of novelty jewelry.

The material growth of the community, Professor Wesley says, was accompanied by a development of cultural institutions, such as schools and churches. A public high school was opened, although as late as 1875 there were only eighteen students enrolled. During the 1870's Pillsbury Academy, a private school sponsored by the Baptist church, and the Sacred Heart School, sponsored by a Catholic order, were established, and in the 1880's a state school for dependent and neglected children was opened there. In these decades also a large number of social organizations came into being, and a literary society, established during the Civil War, flourished for many years. An illustration of a community love for the arts is the conspicuous success of musical organizations and dramatic groups.

While Owatonna was growing socially and economically, it also was growing politically. Professor Wesley shows how in the Owatonna community were brought together the political ideals of Whigs, Republicans, and Democrats from the East or the South, and those of immigrant settlers. Under the leadership of able newspaper editors and other public figures, a spirit of partisanship was heightened by local questions of liquor control and public utility franchises. But Owatonna, nevertheless, developed a "civic personality" (p. 100), as an evidence of which Professor Wesley points to the large number of

utility and service agencies — schools, parks, a public library, a hospital, an electric plant, a gas system, and a garage — owned by the city. The marked success of the city government, he says, may be attributed in part to the fact that a large number of persons were trained for public service in the administration of these various public agencies.

Professor Wesley found that throughout the history of Owatonna there was a considerable foreign-born element in the population. Numerically, the Germans, Czechs, and Danes have been most important, although other national groups were represented. In 1930 about half of the people were foreign born or were the children of parents one or both of whom were foreign born. Professor Wesley points out that this foreign ancestry has not permanently affected the life of the community, however, because "Owatonna, like America as a whole, has absorbed its immigrants, and in so doing it has unwittingly destroyed some elements that might well have been nurtured and maintained" (p. 129).

It is not difficult to evaluate this piece of work. Professor Wesley himself, in an address delivered at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society in January, 1938, set up certain standards by which to measure the values of local history (see *ante*, 19:1-20). Among them were the following: to make the community intelligible; to create an interest in and a love for the community; to aid in understanding state, national, and world affairs; to create an appreciation of the whole field of history; and, finally, to evaluate current affairs. This reviewer thinks that Professor Wesley has achieved these aims. He has given a clear picture of this community. To the reader, Owatonna is not just another Minnesota city, for in these pages is set forth the very personality that time and circumstance have stamped upon it. In writing the biography of this Minnesota city, Professor Wesley has set up a high standard for local historians.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Minnesota, A State Guide. Compiled and written by the FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT OF THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION. (New York, The Viking Press, 1938. xxx, 523 p. Illustrations, maps. \$2.50.)

If "many heads are better than one," *Minnesota, A State Guide*, has been indeed favored in its preparation. It represents a co-operative venture of considerable size. Contributors throughout the state have been numerous, specialists in various fields have been consulted, and a staff employed by the Federal Writers' Project has written the book. The result of these combined labors is a volume of importance both to residents and tourists of the state, to whom it should give a greater appreciation of the region in which they are living or traveling.

The reader will be pleased by the fifty pages of carefully selected photographs which present "Minnesota in Pictures," and will turn with interest to "Minnesota: Past and Present," the section which contains a brief historical survey, and discussions of natural resources, agriculture, industries, and social and cultural activities. Each topic is treated with some historical analysis and a summary of its status today.

A second section in the text contains an interesting comparison of Minneapolis and St. Paul and well-written accounts of the individual development of the Twin Cities, Duluth, St. Cloud, Winona, and Rochester, with outlines of tours of each city. The third section describes the routes for state-wide tours. Picturesque bits from the history of many villages and towns make this section a mine of information for travelers about the state. Possible itineraries for canoe trips, and general information on railroads, highways, motor vehicle laws, and hunting seasons may add to the volume's usefulness for tourists. The map on the front end paper shows the network which the tours make in covering all sections of Minnesota. Pen-and-ink drawings at the beginning and end of many chapters add to the attractive appearance of the volume.

The material in the different sections shows that a real effort has been made to add flavor and zest. One reads of stovepipes used as fake cannons in New Ulm during the Sioux Outbreak, of the Winona sculptor who designed the buffalo nickel, and of the red-coated English fox hunters of Fairmont in the 1870's. Humorous elements are not overlooked; in the discussion of Minnesota lakes, for example, one

county is noted which has within its borders a list of lakes including Kettle, Spider, Spoon, Cup, Knife, Rabbit, Deer, Fire, Fry, and Cook.

When measured by standards of careful scholarship, the book can be criticized severely on a number of scores. Its composite authorship has led to many repetitions and contradictions that careful checking and indexing might easily have prevented. Finnish zeal for co-operatives is mentioned four times (p. 79, 107, 172, and 242). Comment on Bishop Whipple's defense of the Indians in 1862 occurs on pages 37, 55, 117, 315, and 423, and the founding of Hamline University is noted on pages 51, 112, 117, 211, and 226. On page 172 Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis is said to commemorate a seventeenth-century explorer, and only two pages farther on, it is said, this time correctly, to be named for the nineteenth-century scientist. As a rare botanical find for bluffs near Winona, red cedar or juniper is listed incorrectly on page 17, and on page 306 white cedar, the correct species, is noted in describing the same area. According to a statement on page 56, lumbering was counted "still the major industry in the 1870's," but the writer of page 68 feels that agriculture had become the principal industry by 1850.

It is to be expected that much of the material in such a book would become obsolete in a short time, but the use of current material would have given a truer statement of conditions at the time of the book's release. The origin of the name "Itasca" is no longer disputed (p. 310). The nonresident fishing license was four dollars, not three dollars, when the book was published (p. xxiii). Although statistics on file at the state game and fish division estimate the 1937 deer population as over three hundred thousand, the authors use a figure of one hundred thousand estimated in 1930, thus ignoring later investigation and research (p. 20).

Only careless use of sources can explain such errors as the mention of 22 miles of railroad in Minnesota in 1865, instead of 210 (p. 84). Mrs. Ellet's description of Minnesota applies to the period of the 1850's, not 1820 (p. 111). Cultural interests in the Twin Cities in the 1880's centered about the visits of celebrities like Oscar Wilde and Mark Twain, but Fredrika Bremer and Emerson should not be listed for that decade (p. 134). Of these four individuals, Mark Twain's name is the only one listed in the index, and this particular page is not even noted for him. The Nonpartisan League was established in North Dakota in 1915, not 1916 (p. 62). Edward Eggle-

ston did not write the *Hoosier Schoolmaster* while in Minnesota (p. 141). Emil Oberhoffer did not organize the Philharmonic Club (p. 146).

The tourist who goes to the Red Lake area to see "one of the large HERDS OF CARIBOU in the United States," consisting of "thirty or forty animals" (p. 20, 351), will learn that only four or five animals have been known to exist in the region for the last five years. The abundance of wildcats in the vicinity of Heron Lake (p. 317) is another exaggeration. The common gull on the North Shore of Lake Superior is the herring gull not the ring-billed, which passes only in migration (p. 288). The name, "western meadow chickadee," may puzzle amateur and professional ornithologists alike (p. 440). Indian pipe is not a plant of the peat bogs (p. 348).

The map in the envelope at the end of the book, like the text, shows the lack of exactness which is shielded by the anonymity of the volume. The United States Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge is ambiguously titled and the area indicated is a diminutive section of the actual district involved. Only three areas are indicated as refuges for the entire state, while actually there are a hundred and forty-nine state game refuges in Minnesota at present. The Beltrami Island State Forest alone of the twenty-seven state forests is indicated, another instance which illustrates the haphazard method used on this part of the work.

The book can certainly be commended for its interesting style, attractive appearance, and colorful information, but scientific and historical accuracy definitely have not been achieved.

EVADENE BURRIS SWANSON

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Father Louis Hennepin's Description of Louisiana, Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of the King. Translated from the original edition by MARION E. CROSS. With an introduction by GRACE LEE NUTE. (Published for the Minnesota Society of the Colonial Dames of America by the University of Minnesota Press, 1938. xvii, 190 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

The University of Minnesota Press and the Minnesota Society of Colonial Dames have performed a real historical service by publishing a new and very readable translation of Hennepin's *Description de*

la Louisiane, which has just been issued in very attractive dress. As is well known, this was Hennepin's first book, after his return from his five years in America, and is considered by critics more accurate and reliable than his later *Nouvelle Découverte* and *Nouveau Voyage*. Singularly there has never been but one translation into English of this *Description de la Louisiane*, that of John G. Shea in 1880, which the publishers of the present edition say "is now almost as difficult to obtain as the original itself." *La Louisiane* was a best seller in its day, three editions in French, and Italian, Dutch, and German translations having been issued before the close of the seventeenth century.

Minnesotans of the present day will certainly remember that Father Hennepin, while not the first Frenchman to visit their river and lakes, was the first to publish a description of a voyage up the Mississippi, left a memorial of that visit in the name of the Falls of St. Anthony, and went, as a captive of the Sioux Indians, as far north as Mille Lacs. He left the royal arms of France on the bark of an oak near that lake and records the arms in miniature on the map accompanying his account of his journey.

If it be true that each generation writes history for itself, it is also true that each generation issues anew the basic texts in which its history is recorded. Within recent years has come a new account of Father Membré, one of Hennepin's associates; the full and complete journal of Jean Cavelier, brother of La Salle, published by the Institute of Jesuit History; and Lahontan's *Dialogues Curieux* issued by the learned Professor Gilbert Chinard. To these and other reproductions of seventeenth-century texts Hennepin's *La Louisiane* is a notable addition.

The introduction by Dr. Nute brings into notice also the controversy between the Jesuits and the Recollects or Franciscans; and the existence of a court clique, which was intent on pushing La Salle's interests, and disparaging the discoveries of the Jesuit missionaries and of Jolliet. Her hints at editorial and propaganda uses of Hennepin's book throw new light on the vexed question of his extravagant claims for discovery. Dr. Nute appears to think that Hennepin's narrative was edited by Claude Bernou, in the interests of La Salle's later plans. This the reviewer thinks is probable, when one considers the many allusions that occur in the text which would in all probability be foreign to Hennepin's thinking, such as the comparison of the Iroquois chiefs to Venetian senators (p. 25 of this edition). None the less,

there is plenty of evidence that the vainglorious Recollect wrote most of the book himself. Little personal vanities appear often, "Sieur de la Salle and I made a decision," Frontenac "begs" Hennepin to accompany Sieur de la Salle; "I was the most familiar with war." Apparent also are Hennepin's personal prejudices, wherein he is most unjust to Tonty, blaming him for deserting old Father Gabriel de la Ribourde, when the fate of the entire party depended on haste.

The text of *La Louisiane*, if more accurate, also misses some of the delights of the *New Discovery*, especially such cuts as those of Niagara Falls and the buffalo. The present edition, reproducing that of 1683, necessarily shows only one early map. The modern map opposite it omits Hennepin's return journey across the Wisconsin-Fox route with Du Lhut, which is for Wisconsin historians a most interesting feature of Hennepin's travels, since it is the first recorded journey along the Wisconsin-Fox route from the west to the east. The reputed oil portrait of the author, of which a half tone serves as frontispiece, is most interesting; the humorous quirk of the mouth associates itself with the character of the Franciscan, as known by his writings.

In addition to the idiomatic translation of the text into modern English, the book is improved by a number of well-written and scholarly notes. The reviewer takes exception to one or two, however. It is well known that early explorers found along the Illinois River a species of small parrots enlivening the landscape with their bright plumage; none the less, the note maker (p. 66, n. 5) turns "parquets" into "pirogues," following Shea who makes a similar comment. Notwithstanding that slaves were originally captives of war, the reviewer disagrees with the statement (p. 27, n. 7) that there was no real slavery among the Indians. Anyone familiar with the *Mackinac Register* would be certain that the French families had Indian slaves, who had been enslaved by the Indians and lived in that relation to their Indian masters. These, however, are but slight matters in the series of notes, which so well assist the reader to understand the seventeenth-century text. The translator, editor, and press are all to be congratulated on this volume, which will no doubt prove its usefulness and availability for many years.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

Journal of Occurrences in the Athabasca Department, 1820 and 1821, and Report (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, no. 1). By GEORGE SIMPSON. Edited by E. E. RICH, M.A., with an introduction by CHESTER MARTIN, M.A., LL.D. (London, published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1938. lix, 498 p. Illustrations.)

The Hargrave Correspondence, 1821-1843 (Champlain Society, *Publications*, no. 24). Edited with an introduction and notes by G. P. DE T. GLAZEBROOK. (Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1938. xxvi, 472, xii p. Illustrations.)

Three figures dominate the confusing history of northwestern North America in the first quarter of the nineteenth century: the fifth earl of Selkirk, Colin Robertson, and George Simpson. No adequate biography of any of these men has been written. The Hudson's Bay Company, apparently conscious of the lack of authentic data for writing such biographies, has wisely opened its series of publications (through the Hudson's Bay Record Society) with a journal of Simpson's. It is reported that the next volume will consist of Robertson's diaries. Though the great mass of the Selkirk papers at St. Mary's Isle will scarcely appear in this series, their publication in the near future would be a great boon to Canadian and American scholars. Until all three men can be studied minutely and simultaneously, no reliable biography of even one of them is possible.

Any diary by Simpson would be worthy of publication—and it is to be hoped that the huge mass of his diaries and letters will eventually appear in print—but this journal of 1820-21 has especial significance. As Mr. Chester Martin says in his competent, authoritative introduction, it "marks the end of one epoch and the beginning of another." It also serves to bring the three dominating figures into focus for the last time in one field of vision. To be sure, Selkirk died a few weeks before the diary opens, but his influence was still making itself felt and the results of his mastering, if not masterly, coup in the Red River Valley were still painfully apparent. Simpson, on the other hand, was just beginning his meteoric rise to fame and fortune.

Of the certainty that Simpson would be master of his fate and richly earn all that came to him, this diary is prophetic. An obscure man when the diary opens, he quickly proves himself a master of men with an analytic mind of the first order. When the journal ends,

he is about to become governor of the northern department. By 1826 he was governor in chief. He was knighted in 1841. As the moving spirit in the new regime of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1821 to his death in 1860, he led his organization from victory to victory and from near ruin to prosperity.

The volume covers a period extending from July 30, 1820, to June 19, 1821, the last and deciding year of the Northwest Company's rivalry in the Athabaska country. Simpson had weathered the storm in that war-torn area, had proved his mettle, and had served his apprenticeship, when in June, 1821, he moved on to greater things. The journal is, strictly speaking, both a diary and a letter copy-book. Simpson is famous as a prolific letter writer. The letters of this volume show his early style, his forcefulness, and his extraordinary powers of observation.

Besides the diary and letters, this initial volume of the Hudson's Bay Record Society contains Simpson's report on the Athabaska district when he ended his labors there. It is a masterly summary of the situation in the Athabaska country, with no attempt made to gloss over human failings or the company's shortsightedness. The author's real strength and forcefulness come out in his recommendations. Here the Governor Simpson of the reorganized, revitalized Hudson's Bay Company of later years is already speaking.

As appendixes there are a convenient list of posts and districts, each with a brief history, and biographical sketches of most of the persons to whom reference is made in the text. There are also excellent maps. The long introduction by Mr. Martin is worthy of special mention. Here in compact form one finds the most scholarly and discerning sketch of the rivalry between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company that has appeared. Here, too, is an evaluation of Simpson's momentous year in the Athabaska country.

The volume is too bulky for comfortable use. A lighter paper of equal quality would have reduced the weight of the book and added to the reader's pleasure. Type and format are of excellent quality, annotation is adequate and not overpowering, and errors are few. The ambiguous use of personal pronouns, especially in the appendixes, is regrettable, for serious questions of fact sometimes arise therefrom, as in the sketch of Sir George Simpson. "Alexander Simpson states that George was brought up and educated by his father's sister" is an example. It may be asked whether the date 1791 for the actual

establishment of a Hudson's Bay Company post at Rainy Lake (Lac la Pluie) is not an error. It has generally been conceded that though a place for the fort was selected in 1791, it was only in 1793 that the actual founding occurred.

One will not be kept awake by reading Simpson's writings before retiring. The governor's forte was to rule, not to interest men. Though the Champlain Society also publishes James Hargrave's correspondence and makes the volume only less unwieldy than Simpson's diary, discomfort will be forgotten in reading the gossip, chuckles, and good yarns that the old fur traders delighted to send to their well-loved friend, Hargrave. From end to end of the fur country they wrote—McTavish, McPherson, Rowand, Ross, Simpson, Finlayson, Cameron, and Grant—a sampling of the clans. The letters—176 in all—are but a part of the correspondence now in the possession of the Champlain Society. The published letters begin with 1821, shortly after Hargrave migrated to Canada, and end with 1843, just prior to his appointment as a chief factor in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. Most of the time he was at York Factory on Hudson Bay, "the nerve centre of the whole territory" of the company, as the short introduction aptly terms his post.

The letters open with one from Lake of the Woods; many are from the Red River settlement; Thomas McMurray writes from Rainy Lake in 1830 of his American Fur Company opponent, "no less a person . . . than a negro alias Stephen Bonga"; several tell of David Aitken at Pembina; J. D. Cameron of the Rainy Lake post writes of William A. Aitken, James Abbot, and Vincent Roy on the American side opposite Fort Frances; William Cockran reports William G. Rae's passage with Kentucky sheep across Minnesota in 1833, and Donald Ross tells of Rae's amusing experiences in Yankeeland; there is a plate reproducing Peter Rindisbacher's water color of the chaplain's house on the Red River in 1821; Dugal Mactavish, a company clerk, writes on his seventeenth birthday of the singing of his voyageurs, and describes the "fine sight" of two Montreal canoes of six fathoms and sixteen paddlers each in full race; epidemics of whooping cough, influenza, cholera, scarlet fever, infantile paralysis, and dysentery among whites and Indians are mentioned in many letters; Thomas Simpson tells of Peter Haydn and the other Red River emigrants to St. Peter's and points below on the Mississippi; many letters, in turn, refer to Simpson's last tragic trip over the same

route to St. Peter's, a part of the way as a corpse; John Charles of Fort Frances writes of posts being withdrawn in 1838 from Leech Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, and Red Lake; a number of letters mention the fisheries on Lake Superior; James Douglas, of Fort Vancouver, describes Sir George Simpson's arrival "with a dashing train of Knights and squires," as was his wont throughout the fur country; and James Evans, the Wesleyan missionary to the Indians, has an occasional mention, which is not disparaging, as are the usual references to other missionaries and priests with their "praying & singing," to quote John Rowand.

Errors are few. On page 453 the original manuscript should certainly read Alexander Fisher, but perhaps the editor has copied just what he saw. Writers often make odd mistakes with proper names. On page 178 "boules" should read "boutes," in order to make sense. The index is of small value. Two-thirds of the references to persons and places in the preceding paragraph, for instance, have no entry.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Romancero du Canada. By MARIUS BARBEAU. (Toronto, The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, 1937. 251 p. \$2.75.)

Fortunately for the preservation of our Minnesota folk songs, M. Marius Barbeau goes on year after year collecting and publishing the songs of French Canada. As yet no one has gone out among the many descendants of French-Canadian voyageurs and settlers in Minnesota to gather up variations of these songs on our own soil. Yet so many of them are here that within the year I have heard of a group of French Canadians in St. Paul who spent an entire evening singing them, one after another. Unless someone skilled in recording songs rescues these airs and their words from oblivion, we shall soon have no other recourse than general collections like M. Barbeau's when we would know what the earliest whites of Minnesota sang. The special Minnesota flavor will be entirely missing.

This volume will astonish some who have never given thought to the antiquity of our songs. Nearly all French-Canadian folk songs had reached American shores from France before 1680. Many were already ancient when they reached this continent. Thus the com-

plaint of King Renaud was composed in Scandinavia toward the end of the Middle Ages, entered France through Brittany, spread through that country, and passed to Canada in the seventeenth century. One of our best voyageur songs, "Le Prince d'Orange," was composed in 1544, as internal evidence proves; and another, often heard from the throats of picturesque canoemen, "Le Prince Eugène," was composed about 1526. One can even learn from this volume the part of France from which a song came. Thus one of our Minnesota canoe songs, "Voici le printemps," is described as originating in the Loire Valley, as did the *habitants* of Three Rivers and Montreal, whereas the settlers at Quebec came largely from Normandy.

Besides the fifty songs which are given with their airs, there is a historical sketch of every song, an indication of its range in Canada, its rhythmic formula and musical analysis, and a catalogue of its versions in both Canada and France.

G. L. N.

Radisson. By SARAH LARKIN. ([Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada,] 1938. 147 p.)

This rather short narrative poem is another attempt by a woman to express her admiration for that legendary Radisson of whom Lily A. Long wrote many years ago. The real Radisson has eluded both writers—the Radisson whose vision pierced beyond the Indians and furs of a western trading venture to behold a new empire ready to take shape in northwestern North America. The author stresses Radisson's youthful adventures, which are interesting but not very significant; pays little attention to his brother-in-law, Groseilliers, surely the leader of the two in their joint enterprises; makes the old mistakes of chronology, such as a Lake Superior trip with Groseilliers between 1660 and 1663, though there is ample evidence that the latter was elsewhere; marries Radisson to a Mary Kirke, who bemoans his loss in 1729 (presumably his poetic death date, for he actually died in 1710), and ignores the fact that the name of the widow of 1729 was Elizabeth; sends him to Hudson Bay at the command of Louis XIV in 1684, conveniently oblivious to Louis' rage and the price he set on the renegade's head when he realized that Lord Preston had bribed Radisson back to English interests; and makes him in general a rather feeble caricature of the robust, realistic, vivacious, capable rogue that he was. Even the verse form is feebly uncertain of its proper length and gait.

G. L. N.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

DR. E. M. FREEMAN ("A Scientist Looks at History") is dean of the college of agriculture, forestry, and home economics in the University of Minnesota, where he has served as professor of plant pathology since 1908. His publications include a study of *Minnesota Plant Diseases*. Mr. Ellworth T. Carlstedt ("When Fond du Lac Was British") is a member of the faculty of the Bloomfield Junior College, Bloomfield, Iowa. Mr. LeRoy G. Davis ("Some Frontier Institutions") has recently contributed to this magazine articles on frontier words and phrases and on home remedies and sanitation. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen ("The Minnesota Historical Society in 1938"), Miss Bertha L. Heilbron ("The 1939 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society"), and Dr. Grace Lee Nute ("Rindisbacher's Minnesota Water Colors") are members of the society's staff. Mr. Homer P. Clark ("Everett Hoskins Bailey") has been a member of the society's executive council since 1927. He is the chairman of the board of the West Publishing Company of St. Paul. The reviewers include Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, head of the society's newspaper department; Mrs. Gustav Swanson of St. Paul, who published a series of articles on pioneer Minnesota life in this magazine some years ago; Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, senior research associate on the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; and Dr. Nute, the curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society.

Contributions by Miss Nute and Miss Ackermann appear in a volume of *Papers* presented at the 1938 conference of the American Library Association, edited by Jerome K. Wilcox and A. F. Kuhlman and published under the title *Public Documents with Archives and Libraries* (Chicago, 1938. 429 p.). "Principles for the Selection of Materials for Preservation in Historical Manuscript Collections" are discussed by Miss Nute, and the "Organization and Preservation of the Manuscript Collections in the Library of the Minnesota Historical Society" are described by Miss Ackermann.

Rodney C. Loehr's article on "Minnesota Farmers' Diaries" which appeared in this magazine for September, 1937, is reprinted in the Oc-

tober number of *Agricultural History*. In its original form, the article was one of the series of discussions of "Some Sources for Northwest History."

The articles on "Wendelin Grimm and Alfalfa" and on "T. L. Haecker, the Father of Dairying in Minnesota" which Mr. Everett E. Edwards contributed to the issues of this magazine for March and June, 1938, appear in German translations in the *Tägliche Volkszeitung* of St. Paul for November 30. This issue of the *Volkszeitung* is a sixtieth anniversary edition, which includes articles on Knute Nelson, James J. Hill, Archbishop Ireland, German organizations and churches in the Twin Cities, and a number of other subjects of historical interest.

Twenty-six additions to the active membership of the society, including one sustaining member, Mrs. Frederick R. Bigelow of St. Paul, were made in the last quarter of 1938. The new annual members are Sydney S. Alwin of Minneapolis, F. S. Baldwin of Seattle, Washington, Dr. L. N. Bergh of Montevideo, Mrs. Hildegard Binder-Johnson of Minneapolis, H. J. Carlson of Boston, Dr. Harry B. Clark of St. Cloud, Mrs. Alice F. Drechsler of Minneapolis, Dr. F. H. Dubbe of New Ulm, Alois F. Eibner of New Ulm, J. H. Fraser of Minneapolis, Fred W. Gosewich of Minneapolis, Dr. Raymond F. Hedin of Red Wing, Gertrude A. Jacobsen of Minneapolis, M. L. Joslyn of Hinsdale, Illinois, Morton S. Katz of St. Paul, Mrs. N. P. Langford of St. Paul, Mrs. William H. Lightner of St. Paul, Mrs. W. T. Leonard of Duluth, Thomas M. McGill of Minneapolis, Victor W. McGrorty of Minneapolis, Mrs. Mary A. Petran of Albert Lea, Mrs. E. R. Sanford of St. Paul, Edith Woolsey of Minneapolis, Mrs. Philip G. Wright of St. Paul, and Lewis O. Zahrendt of Morristown.

The Fillmore County Historical Society, the Hennepin County Historical Society, and the Northern Pacific Railway Veterans' Association of St. Paul recently enrolled as institutional members of the society.

The public schools of Alexandria, Arco, Aurora, Biwabik, Dawson, and Hallock have been added to the roll of schools and libraries that subscribe to the society's publications. Seven additional subscriptions have been taken out by the Minneapolis Public Library, which now carries a total of twenty subscriptions.

The society lost five active members by death during the last three months of 1938: Levi E. Day of Farmington on October 9, William L. Darling of St. Paul on October 27, Everett H. Bailey of St. Paul on November 10, Edwin L. Lindell of Minneapolis on November 10, and Anton C. Weiss of Duluth on November 27.

About sixty-five members of the society joined an excursion to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, conducted by the Burlington Railroad on October 23. There they had an opportunity to see the restored home of Hercules L. Dousman, the well-known fur trader, and his descendants, to examine the excavations on the site of old Fort Crawford, and to visit the old French cemeteries and the local Catholic church. Mrs. Edward B. Young of St. Paul, a granddaughter of Dousman and a member of the society's executive council, was present to guide the tourists through her grandfather's home; and the Reverend L. R. Cooper, who has directed the excavations on the site of the fort, explained the methods used and the results achieved.

Three members of the society's staff, the superintendent, the curator of manuscripts, and the head of the newspaper department, attended the fifty-third annual meeting of the American Historical Association, which was held in Chicago on December 28, 29, and 30. Mr. Blegen went to Washington on December 3 for a meeting of the advisory board of the American Council of Learned Societies, and Miss Nute attended the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Springfield, Illinois, from October 24 to 26.

Six members of the society's staff presented sixteen addresses and talks before various organizations and groups during the last quarter of 1938. The superintendent discussed the work of the society at a meeting of the St. Anthony Falls chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on November 17, and he presented an address on "From Carver to Pike, or in the Days of Old Grand Portage" before members of the Informal Club of St. Paul on December 19. He was interviewed on the subject of *Minnesota: A State Guide* over radio station WCCO on November 30, and he described the National Archives over station WLB on December 19. Miss Nute presented a paper on "Early References to the Minnesota Valley" before the Mankato chapter of the American Association of University Women on November 14; she spoke on the work of the manuscript division at a

meeting of the League of Minnesota Poets in St. Paul on November 12; she described the adventures of "An English Hunter in the West in 1847" for the Kiwanis Club of St. Boniface, Manitoba, on November 17; she discussed the explorations of "Radisson and Groseilliers" before the Caledonians of Winnipeg on November 18; and on the same day she addressed a meeting of the Manitoba Historical Society on "The Voyageur." Mr. Babcock spoke on the "Grand Medicine Society of the Chippewa Indians" before the St. Paul chapter of the Interprofessional Club on October 6, on the "Lure of Minnesota History" at a meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at Waseca on October 7, and on the "1938 Campaign at Grand Portage" before members of the society's executive council on October 10. Mr. Larsen recalled "Minnesota in the Day of Sibley" for members of the Henry Hastings Sibley chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on November 17; Miss Fawcett read papers on "Some Early Minnesota Bells" before the John Prescott chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and on "Some Cultural Aspects of Pioneer Life in the Fifties" before a Minneapolis chapter of the P.E.O. on November 11; and Miss McCann spoke on "T. L. Haecker and His Work" at a meeting of the St. Paul Consumers Co-operative Club on October 14.

ACCESSIONS

Photographic copies of eight letters written between 1818 and 1822 from trading posts in the West, chiefly in Minnesota, by Samuel Ashmun, Jr., and John H. Fairbank have been made for the society from the originals in the possession of Mr. Hugh McLellan of Champlain, New York. Ashmun's contract to serve as a clerk of the American Fur Company also has been copied. The letters, which are addressed to Mr. McLellan's grandfather, Bartlett Nye, were published in the *Moorsfield Antiquarian* for May, 1938 (see *ante*, 19:348). They give intimate glimpses of life at Mackinac and at posts in the Fond du Lac department of the American Fur Company.

About three hundred items of Minnesota and Northwest interest among the letters received by the office of Indian affairs chiefly from 1820 to 1827 have been photographed for the society from the originals, now in the National Archives in Washington. Letters from Major Lawrence Taliaferro, the Minnesota Indian agent, in which

he refers to the location of fur traders in his agency, applies for an appointment as agent to the Osage Indians, and expresses his disapproval of John Marsh as subagent, are included. Among the letters from Governor Lewis Cass in the group are some relating to his exploring expedition of 1820, his plan to publish a history of Indian customs and languages, and the appointment of George Johnston as subagent at La Pointe. Here also are to be found items relating to such important Northwest figures as William Joseph Snelling, Joseph Rolette, William A. Aitken, Alexander Faribault, Joseph Laframboise, William Morrison, Scott Campbell, and Henry R. Schoolcraft.

An abstract of votes cast in Clayton County, Iowa Territory, in September, 1838, recently copied for the society by the photostatic process from the original in the possession of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa at Des Moines, includes returns from the St. Peter's precinct, at the mouth of the Minnesota River. The abstract shows that a number of residents of what is now Minnesota cast votes for a delegate to Congress and for members of the Iowa territorial legislature, for all Minnesota west of the Mississippi was included in the newly organized territory. Pioneer Minnesotans also are listed in a census of Clayton County, Wisconsin, which has been photographed from the original in the office of the secretary of state at Madison, Wisconsin. The census was taken in May, 1838, just before Iowa Territory was organized and while Clayton County was still a part of Wisconsin.

A reminiscent narrative and several letters of Alonzo Barnard, a missionary to the Minnesota Chippewa in the 1840's, have been photographed from the originals in the possession of Mr. William Douglas of Winnipeg. In these documents Barnard gives accounts of the printing press that was used at the Cass Lake mission, and of the method he used in studying the Chippewa language.

Mr. Charles L. Chandler of Philadelphia has presented a photostatic copy of a draft of a letter in his possession which was written to the secretary of war by Gouverneur Kemble on March 3, 1841. Kemble, a leading American iron founder, presents a proposal to develop the copper mines of the Lake Superior country, which he was interested in leasing from the government.

The archiepiscopal archives at St. Boniface, Manitoba, up to 1868 have been examined recently for material of Minnesota interest, and some thirteen hundred filmstrips have been made of selected items. For the years before 1850, the interest lies largely in the papers of Henry Fisher, a fur trader and a brother of Mrs. Hercules L. Dousman of Prairie du Chien. These papers include material on such well-known traders as Joseph Rolette, Bernard W. Brisbois, and Norman W. Kittson; and they contain accounts of life at Pembina, trips between St. Peter's and Fort Garry, and many other subjects of Minnesota interest. For a later period, the archives reveal a wealth of material about the Sioux War of 1862-64, with numerous letters by and about Henry H. Sibley and Major Edwin A. C. Hatch. Items relating to Catholic missionary activities in Minnesota and the Northwest include material about and by Father J. B. M. Genin, the earliest Oblate missionary in the upper Red River Valley, and the reminiscences of the Reverend Joseph Goiffon, written in 1908 when he was almost eighty-five years old for the archbishop of St. Boniface. A longer and slightly different version of the latter document, which fills twenty-seven closely written pages, is owned by the St. Paul Seminary (see *ante*, 9:68).

A series of diaries kept from 1873 to 1901 by Edward H. S. Dartt, who conducted an experiment station for fruit trees near Owatonna, has been presented by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harvey S. Dartt of Minneapolis. The volumes are especially valuable for their comments on the growing of fruit in southern Minnesota, on county fairs, and on meetings of the state horticultural society. Information about Dartt's activities at Kingston, Wisconsin, where he lived before removing to Minnesota in 1868, and about his early years in the latter state is to be found in account books for the period from 1846 to 1875, which are also included in the gift. In these volumes are records of a store that Dartt conducted at Kingston, minutes of meetings of the trustees of a proposed academy at that place in 1856, a record of real-estate transactions, and lists of prices received for trees and fruit raised in Minnesota.

A diary kept by Governor Alexander Ramsey in 1850, while engaged in a canoe trip from St. Paul to Leech, Cass, and Sandy lakes via the Mississippi, has been added to his papers by his granddaughter,

Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul. The journey described in this little book seems to have been made in anticipation of a treaty with several bands of Chippewa for the sale of their lands, but Ramsey was careful to make no mention of this plan, explaining in the diary that such a course at the time might lead the natives to demand excessively high prices for the land. Ramsey's record is of special value for its detailed descriptions of individual Indians and traders, including Flat Mouth and George Bonga; of the buildings and personnel at the mission stations established on Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish by the so-called Oberlin band of missionaries; and of the Methodist mission at Sandy Lake.

Photographic and typewritten copies of the diary kept by George B. McClellan while engaged in the Pacific railroad survey of 1853 have been made for the society from the original in the Library of Congress. McClellan led the party that worked eastward from the Pacific coast and eventually met the expedition under Isaac I. Stevens that pushed westward from St. Paul.

"We have made between 80 and 90 gallons of Molasses from the Chinese sugar cane this fall and 60 for other folks 150 in all and it is much better than we can buy at the stores," wrote Ditus Day from Castle Rock in December, 1858. The letter in which he makes this report about his manufacture of sorghum syrup is one of several written by Day and his wife from 1858 to 1860, which have been presented by Mrs. Schuyler V. R. Hendryx of Austin. Mrs. Day describes the equipment used in making the syrup in a letter of October 5, 1858. Her husband and son used "two wooden rollers turned by horse power to crush out the juice," she reports. "Then they have 2 sheet iron pans to boil [it] in."

The Red River rebellion, temperance societies in Minnesota, the founding of Nininger, the Spirit Lake massacre, and fruits and crops produced in Minnesota are among the subjects touched upon in items recently transcribed for the society from files of eastern newspapers preserved in the Public and Congregational libraries of Boston. They were found in files of the *Portland Eclectic* and the *Liberator* for the 1850's, in the *Advance* of the 1860's and the 1870's, and in the *Pilot* of the latter decade. "You see plenty of strong, robust looking men and women, many of whom you will be surprised to learn, came to

the State as confirmed consumptives," wrote a Minnesota correspondent to the *Advance* in 1869. Calendar cards made for items in numerous papers and periodicals in the same libraries show that they contain material relating to such subjects as the Floral Culture Association of Minnesota, Jane Grey Swisshelm, the Hutchinson family, George Copway, I. I. Stevens' survey of a route for a Pacific railroad, and Congregational churches in Minnesota.

The diaries kept between 1864 and 1873 by John W. Murray, a farmer and horticulturist living near Excelsior, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Byron Wilson of Excelsior. They contain an unusual record of the raising of bees, as well as entries relating to the diarist's experiences as a hospital steward in Missouri during the Civil War, the Congregational church at Excelsior, a meeting of the Congregational conference in Minneapolis in 1865, a trip by stage and rail through southern Minnesota in the same year, fairs, social life, country schools, and weather conditions.

A typewritten copy of the reminiscences of John J. Sherman, describing experiences in southern prisons during the Civil War, has been presented by his daughter, Miss Florence L. Sherman of Morton, Illinois. Sherman was a member of Company G, Eighth New York Heavy Artillery.

Seven letters written between 1868 and 1871 by Mrs. Hannah E. Boyce, the wife of a farmer near Fairmont, have been photographed from the originals in the possession of the Martin County Historical Society, through the courtesy of Mr. Arthur M. Nelson of Fairmont. All the letters are addressed to William Rutherford of Lisbon, New York, the writer's father. She reports on various phases of pioneer life, giving prices of farm products and revealing that her husband was obliged to pay thirty-two per cent interest on money borrowed to buy a reaper.

A large collection of the papers of Solomon G. Comstock, lawyer, state legislator, and Congressman, covering the period from 1875 to 1920, has been presented by his children through the courtesy of Miss Jessie Comstock of Moorhead. Comstock's correspondence includes many letters from prominent Minnesotans, such as Knute Nelson, William S. Pattee, Christopher C. Andrews, and Cushman K. Davis. Much information on local politics between 1876 and 1891, on Com-

stock's activities as a member of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota and of the state normal school board, and on his locating of townsites in western Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana, in partnership with Almond A. White, is to be found in these papers.

Letters from American authors and illustrators regarding the publication of their works in the *Northwestern Miller* and the *Bellman* are among twenty-six letters written between 1885 and 1923 to William C. Edgar, the Minneapolis editor, that have been photographed for the society from the originals in the Minneapolis Public Library. The correspondents include Edwin A. Abbey, James L. Allen, Charles Barnard, Samuel L. Clemens, Alice French, Richard W. Gilder, Edward E. Hale, Mrs. Anton Lang, Brander Matthews, William J. Mayo, Edgar W. Nye, Howard Pyle, Frederic Remington, Frank R. Stockton, George E. Vincent, and Constance F. Woolson.

A draft of a letter written by Henry H. Sibley to Isaac V. Heard on July 4, 1890, regarding the Senate investigation of the Sioux treaties of 1851, has been presented by the former's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fred Sibley of Los Angeles, through the courtesy of Miss Eugenie F. McGorty of St. Paul.

A filing box of the papers of Theophilus L. Haecker, professor of dairy husbandry at the University of Minnesota for many years and a promoter of co-operative creameries throughout the state, has been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Robert Lansing of St. Paul. The collection covers the period from 1890 to 1936, and includes correspondence with Coates P. Bull, Frank A. Day, William A. Henry, William D. Hoard, Cyrus Northrop, and Alfred F. Woods. In addition there are clippings relating to Haecker's work in the development of the dairy industry, copies of his speeches and of articles on the feeding of cattle and on agricultural co-operation, and notebooks of experiments at the school of agriculture.

Minutes of the meetings held from 1894 to 1932 by St. Agnes court of the Catholic Order of Foresters, a fraternal benefit society of St. Paul, have been presented through the courtesy of Mr. Alvis E. Mathe, its recording secretary. The minutes are written entirely in German from 1894 to 1917, alternately in German and English

from 1918 to 1928, and thereafter in English. Accompanying the minutes is a register of endowment certificates issued by the organization.

Two letter books and a few papers kept by Leonard A. Rosing, chairman of the Democratic state central committee in 1897 and candidate for governor in 1902, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. W. L. Patterson of Fergus Falls. Included in the collection are letters from Governors John Lind and John A. Johnson. The letter books, which cover the period from April, 1904, to March, 1905, relate to the affairs of the Minnesota Municipal and Commercial League, of which Rosing was president; to its interest in increasing the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix railroad rates; to the influence exerted upon Senator Moses E. Clapp and Congressman F. C. Stevens toward this end; to the activities of the Commercial Club of Cannon Falls; and to the state board of control, of which Rosing was a member.

The papers of Ransom J. Powell, a Minneapolis attorney who handled numerous cases involving lands on the White Earth reservation, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Alyce Vick of Anoka. The collection, which fills five filing boxes, includes correspondence for the years from 1906 to 1922. It relates for the most part to land titles on the reservation and the blood status of certain Indians. Township plats on which are indicated the lands claimed by Powell's clients and by others also are included in the collection.

A revised copy of a doctoral dissertation submitted at Clark University in 1933 by George H. Primmer and entitled "The Influence of Location on the Evolution of Duluth, Minnesota" is the gift of the author, a member of the faculty of the Duluth State Teachers College.

NEWS AND COMMENT

"THE HISTORIAN of the future who seeks to interpret our contemporary life without taking into account the shaping forces of modern business will but touch the fringe of his subject," writes Oliver W. Holmes in a discussion of "The Evaluation and Preservation of Business Archives" which appears in the *American Archivist* for October. "For more than a generation people have spoken of two capitals, Washington and Wall Street," he continues, adding the comment that "We are careful to preserve the records of one capital, but have sadly neglected the records of the other." He points out that the preservation of business archives is doubly important "because few business records are ever printed," making it necessary for the historian who would satisfactorily interpret and fully understand the operations of a business concern to depend upon its manuscript records. The writer concludes that bold and careful planning "is necessary if the resources stored in the experiences of the past and the present are to be conserved for the future."

Mr. Frank E. Ross, whose detailed review of the "Fur Trade of the Western Great Lakes Region" appeared in the issue of this magazine for September, 1938, contributes an article on the "Early Fur Trade of the Great Northwest" to the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for December. Among the traders and explorers whose exploits are noted are La Vérendrye, David Thompson, Lewis and Clark, Zebulon M. Pike, and Manuel Lisa. The well-known story of Pike's expedition into the Minnesota country in 1805-06 is retold in some detail, and an account of the beginnings of the Red River settlements, including Pembina, is presented.

The Reverend Gilbert J. Garraghan is the author of a three-volume history of the *Jesuits of the Middle United States*, beginning with the "arrival of Father Van Quickenborne and his Belgian novices at Florissant, Missouri, in 1823." The work of this order in the past century has not been prominently identified with Minnesota. The author does bring out the fact, however, that the Jesuits have "maintained a residence" at Mankato since 1874, and he devotes a

short section to the work of the society in this Minnesota city. He notes also the unsuccessful attempts of Bishops Cretin and Grace to attract Jesuit missionaries to the Minnesota frontier.

A number of early Minnesota periodicals are mentioned by Frank Luther Mott in his detailed *History of American Magazines, 1865-1885* (Cambridge, 1938. 649 p.). Among them are trade journals, such as the *Northwestern Miller* and the *Northwestern Architect*; agricultural periodicals, such as *Farm, Stock, and Home*; medical magazines, such as the *Journal-Lancet*; and religious, temperance, and other periodicals. Note is made also of the *Northwest Magazine*, a "‘booster’ monthly" published at St. Paul for two decades.

Under the heading "Norsemen in Ontario," eleven articles by J. W. Curran appear in the *Sault Daily Star* of Sault Ste. Marie from August 13 to October 22. They are reprinted with an introductory sketch in a special section issued by the *Star* in November. Mr. Curran deals particularly with discoveries recently made in Canada of objects reported to be of Norse origin. Among them are the "armor of a Norseman . . . pronounced of 11th century make" found near Lake Nipigon in 1930 by James E. Dodd, and a "Norse spear-head" found on the shore of Lake Superior in August, 1938. Mr. Curran touches on the Kensington rune stone as an evidence of the presence of Norsemen in the Northwest and in Canada in the fourteenth century. A novel based upon the Kensington story is Hjalmar J. Loken's "Great Medicine," which appears in installments in the *Classmate* of Cincinnati from June 4 to July 16, 1938. With the opening chapter, Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand presents a brief account of "The Writing Stone: Story of a Missionary Expedition 130 Years before Columbus Discovered America." It is accompanied by two views of the Kensington stone, showing the runic inscriptions.

Professor George M. Stephenson surveyed "Scandinavian Contributions to American Life" at a session of the Chicago meeting of the American Historical Association on December 30. Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, president of the University of Minnesota and a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, presided at the session, and Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the society, participated in the discussion which followed.

Members of the National Grange, en route to a convention at Portland, Oregon, stopped at Elk River on November 11 to participate in ceremonies at the home of Oliver H. Kelley, the founder of the Grange. A bronze and granite marker on the Kelley homestead was unveiled, and brief talks commemorating Kelley's services were presented by Mr. James Kelly of the Minnesota highway department, Mr. E. K. Eckert and Mr. L. J. Taber, officers of the National Grange, and Mr. M. L. Wilson, assistant secretary of agriculture. The latter speaker asserted that the Kelley homestead "should become to agriculture what Mount Vernon is to the nation."

Minnesota and Northwest influences figure prominently in Theodore Jorgenson's study of "The Main Factors in Rølvaag's Authorship," which appears in volume 10 of *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* (1938.). The Minnesota author's Norwegian background, his life in South Dakota, his college career, and his services as a member of the faculty of St. Olaf College after 1906 are discussed at length. Mr. Jorgenson believes that Rølvaag's "duties as a college professor kept him on the main highway of his literary interest," and that "it is extremely doubtful that he ever would have reached beyond the apprentice stage as a writer had he chosen any other profession than the teaching of Norse literature."

Holiday celebrations of various racial groups—the Swedes, the Dutch, the Germans, the Belgians, the English, the Irish—in frontier Wisconsin receive considerable attention in the first installment of Lillian Krueger's study of "Social Life in Wisconsin," which appears in the December issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Dances, banquets, and other festivities in which the Wisconsin pioneers of the forties, fifties, and early sixties participated also are described. In this issue of the *Magazine* appears the concluding installment of Thomas Pederson's "Recollections" (see *ante*, 19:465). He tells here of his later years at Randall in Morrison County and of his removal to Mildred in Cass County in northern Minnesota.

Various phases of social life in Iowa Territory a century ago are described in three articles appearing in the *Palimpsest* for December. William J. Petersen takes as his subject "Homespun Amusements"; Jack T. Johnson deals with the "Mandatory Thrift" that characterized frontier life; and Luella M. Wright presents some typical

examples of "Journalistic Literature" of 1838. "Except for an occasional steamboat excursion (the *Brasil* carried a party to the Falls of St. Anthony)," writes Mr. Petersen, "the Iowa pioneers had little imported diversion." They managed, however, to utilize "every element of their social life as a vehicle for fun." Among the amusements discussed by Mr. Petersen are bees, hunting and fishing expeditions, sleighing and skating, dancing, amateur theatricals, and holiday celebrations. Mr. Petersen also is the author of an interesting article on "The Pioneer Cabin" as it existed in Iowa from about 1830 to 1870, published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October. Log cabins, sod houses, and dugouts occupied by settlers in various parts of the state are described, and the methods by which they were constructed are explained.

Representatives of historical organizations in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota participated in a program near Larchwood, Iowa, on October 9 at which a recently restored marker designating the meeting point of these three states was dedicated (see *ante*, 19:424-426). The original iron post placed at the southwest corner of Minnesota in 1859, as restored, bears the following inscription: "This marker erected in 1859 by the U. S. government marking junction of Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota territory. Marker damaged by vandals, repaired and reset under direction of the Department of the Interior, by Lyon county, Iowa; Rock county, Minnesota; and Minnehaha county, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Minnehaha County Historical Society. A.D. 1938."

A History of Transportation in Canada by G. P. de T. Glazebrook has been issued as one of a series of studies dealing with the "relations of Canada and the United States" (Toronto, 1938. 475 p.). Grand Portage and the lakes and rivers that now form the northern border of Minnesota figure prominently in the opening chapters, which bear the titles "Water Transport in the French Régime" and "The Fur Traders, 1763-1821." Grand Portage is described as the "meeting place of the traders and the point at which the goods or furs were transferred from the *canots du maître* to the *canots du nord*" for the voyage into the interior. The writer points out that after the treaty of 1783 the "Grand Portage route was the only satisfactory one known, and the traders were plunged into deep

gloom at the thought of losing it to the United States," and he shows how this important transportation route was eventually replaced by the Kaministiquia route. In later chapters, particularly those relating to the Pacific and other transcontinental railways, the position of James J. Hill is given due prominence.

"Pembina is a wretched place, and the wretched American Post Office in the other, *i.e.* American, side of the line is still more miserable." Thus wrote Captain John Palliser, the leader of a British exploring expedition in the Canadian West, when he visited the border post in July, 1857. "We walked up to a wooden post driven into the ground, indicating the boundary line; it was placed there by the Americans," Palliser reports. He "took the latitude and found it very correct." A letter from Palliser describing a journey from Fort William to Fort Garry and Pembina, including these comments on the latter place, appears with a brief introduction by H. S. Patterson in the December issue of the *Beaver*. The same number includes a sketch by Ross Mitchell of Dr. John Bunn, a pioneer physician in the Canadian Red River settlements from 1832 to 1861.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

"To make more generally known and available the mass of material bearing on social conditions in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, to reveal what has been reported on and studied in a variety of fields, and to indicate where these studies are available" are the purposes of a *Guide to Studies of Social Conditions in the Twin Cities: An Annotated Bibliography*, prepared by Calvin F. Schmid, Raymond F. Sletto, and A. Stephen Stephan, and published by the bureau of social research of the Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies (Minneapolis, 1938. 474 p.). Listed herein are nearly twenty-five hundred books, articles, and reports, issued for the most part since 1920 and dealing with a great variety of subjects. Included are sections devoted to such diverse topics as child welfare, industry and business, schools and colleges, city planning, arts and music, health, immigrant groups, libraries, hospitals, fire prevention, welfare and relief, settlement houses, traffic regulations, and taxation. Any student who undertakes a study of the history of almost any phase of social life and conditions in the Twin City area, or even in Minnesota as a whole, will do well to consult this bibliography. If the entire work can

be judged, however, by the section on history, which includes 116 items, it should be used with discretion. Under the heading of the Minnesota Historical Society are listed only two of the seventeen volumes of *Collections* that this organization has published, though two or three other works in this series are included under the names of their authors. The society's *Check List of Minnesota Public Documents* appears twice, once under the names of the compilers and once under that of the publisher. A few selected articles that have been published in MINNESOTA HISTORY are included, as is the index to the first ten volumes of this periodical. The section relating to "Racial, Nationality, and Immigrant Groups" omits many standard items in the fields of Swedish and Norwegian immigration, not a few of which contain material of Twin City interest.

To the *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*, initiated by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey in 1937 (see *ante*, 19: 88-90), three bulky volumes were added late in 1938. They make available lists of the archives of Nicollet County located at St. Peter (no. 52—195 p.), of Traverse County preserved at Wheaton (no. 78—235 p.), and of Washington County preserved at Stillwater (no. 82—284 p.). Each volume opens with a historical sketch of the county and an account of the "Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records" preserved in its courthouse. The Historical Records Survey has also published recently another section of its *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States* (see *ante*, 19:462)—a list of the records of the federal department of the treasury preserved in Minnesota. The majority of its 169 pages are devoted to inventories of the records of customs and internal revenue offices in the state.

A new edition of Antoinette E. Ford's *Gopher Tales*, which was originally issued in 1932 (see *ante*, 13:420), has been published by Lyons and Carnahan (Chicago, 1938. 214 p.). The text remains unchanged, but a section devoted to "Minnesota Counties" has been added. It includes a paragraph about each county in the state, giving the date of its establishment and the origin of its name.

A number of letters written in 1839 and 1840 from Fort Snelling by Dr. John Emerson, the "Owner of Dred Scott," are quoted in an article by the Reverend Charles E. Snyder in the *Annals of Iowa* for October. The letters, which were addressed to Antoine LeClaire,

are now among the latter's papers in the Davenport Public Museum. Although they relate chiefly to property that Emerson acquired while stationed at Fort Armstrong, they contain illuminating passages about events at the Minnesota post to which the army surgeon was transferred and to which he took his slave in 1836. In a letter of July 14, 1839, for example, he reports on the recent "sad affair between the Sioux and the Chippewas," telling how the Sioux, after losing one of their number at the hands of the Chippewa, pursued the latter and took "one hundred fifty scalps." "They have nearly exterminated, a band of the Chipp called in french the *Mil Lac band*," writes Dr. Emerson, "all done on the public lands in the Territory of Wisconsin and within fifty miles of their Fort."

A brief note on "Fr. Pierz among Minnesota Indians," which appears in *Central-Blatt and Social Justice* for October, is based upon a letter of Pierz that is published in *Wahrheitsfreund* for June 6, 1861. In this letter, which unfortunately is not reprinted in full, Pierz "speaks of the distribution of seeds and bulbs, his treatment of the Indians' ailments with homeopathic remedies, his method of teaching and his use of the Baraga Catechism." Particularly interesting might be the missionary's comments on plants that he was introducing, since the letter was written when he was stationed at Crow Wing.

The memory of a childhood spent as the daughter of a missionary in northern Minnesota has been translated by Mrs. Lois D. Hagen into an appealing volume, published under the title *A Parish in the Pines*, to which clings a faint and haunting aroma of pine boughs (Caldwell, Idaho, 1938. 263 p.). A puritanical father, William Denley, and a gracious mother, both from England, gave the best years of their lives first as home missionaries of the Congregational church at Wadena and Brighton; and later as Episcopalian missionaries to Indians at White Earth, Red Lake, and Cass Lake. Mostly the narrative is dramatic with small incidents and characters—births, deaths, journeys, a murder, a devoted country doctor's funeral, schools, tutors, the purchase of the first cow, and Indian personalities and psychology. But through the pains and pleasures of life on a late frontier runs a gay thread of delight at the beauties of northern woodlands and lakes. Now and again historical characters appear,

though with names that half conceal their identity. "The Reverend J. W. Gillian, Archdeacon of the Episcopal church," was surely the famous Indian missionary, Joseph Alexander Gilfillan; "Enamnigabo (or Mr. Johnson as we knew him)" was certainly the well-known Enmegahbowh, or John Johnson. The "Richelieu" brothers strongly suggest the Beaulieu brothers. Despite such minor distortions the book, besides being entertaining, is of historical value. G. L. N.

A 1939 *Supplement* to Roy G. and Gladys C. Blakey's volume on *Taxation in Minnesota*, published in 1932, has been issued by the University of Minnesota Press (32 p.). In the present pamphlet the authors undertake "to summarize the main tax changes and the developments affecting taxation in the state since 1932." Another recent publication of this press is a book entitled *Ninety Days of Lawmaking in Minnesota*, in which an effort is made to present "a realistic picture of how the Minnesota legislature is organized and how it functions as a lawmaking body."

With three installments of Dr. John M. Armstrong's "History of Medicine in Ramsey County," *Minnesota Medicine* continues, in its issues for October, November, and December, its history of medical practice in the state (see *ante*, 19:463). Dr. Armstrong opens his narrative with brief accounts of Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, the missionary to the Sioux, and of post physicians who served at old Fort Snelling. From 1847, when Dr. John J. Dewey settled at St. Paul, however, Dr. Armstrong presents a year-by-year account of the medical history of the community. He has scanned with care the files of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, the first Minnesota newspaper, which began publication at St. Paul in 1849, and he reproduces in his narrative many items of medical interest discovered in these columns. Among them is the advertisement of "Dr. Jarvis, Dentist and Daguerrean," published in May, 1850. The author has drawn also upon manuscripts preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society. The list of deaths in Ramsey County appearing in the manuscript census of 1850 is reproduced, as are certain items from the account book of Dr. Thomas R. Potts, who began to practice medicine in St. Paul in May, 1849. The last installment published in 1938 carries the narrative to the year 1854. Dr. Armstrong has made a contribution of unusual interest and value to the history of Minnesota.

An entire section of the *Minnesota Daily* for November 1 is devoted to articles about the growth of musical activity on the campus of the University of Minnesota in the past two decades. Special attention is given to the University Artists Course, which opened its twentieth season on November 7. Included is a list of artists who have given performances in this series since 1919. Accounts of the growth of the university's school of music and of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra's connection with the university also appear in the section.

The history of the Archdiocese of St. Paul since its establishment half a century ago is reviewed by Florence Brown in the *Catholic Bulletin* of St. Paul for December 24. The division into dioceses, the establishment of schools and seminaries, and the careers of Archbishops Ireland, Dowling, and Murray are discussed by the writer.

The Northern Pacific Railway Veterans' Association is attempting to establish in the general offices of the road in St. Paul a railway museum, and it has appealed to its members for pictures and museum objects. Among the articles in which the association is interested are lamps, bells, early types of rails, old telegraph equipment, dining car service articles, and the like. Members also have been asked to furnish autobiographical sketches, giving special attention to their rail-roading experiences.

In a pamphlet entitled *Growth Dictated by Demand*, the Northern States Power Company of Minnesota presents a concise review of its organization and early history and of the growth of its services (27 p.). The company originated at Stillwater in 1909 with the incorporation of the Washington County Light and Power Company.

Several hundred people attended a dinner meeting honoring the memory of Ignatius Donnelly at Hastings on November 30, when plans for establishing a state park on the site of his former home at Nininger were outlined. Mr. E. Dudley Parsons of Minneapolis presented a review of Donnelly's career which is published in full in the *Hastings Gazette* for December 9.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

An asset of which any community, regardless of size, could be justly proud is the museum of the Brown County Historical Society

at New Ulm. This handsome fireproof structure is an ideal home for one of the largest and most interesting local historical collections in the state. Modern in design, the building is constructed of a glistening white manufactured stone, known as American Artstone. The ground floor, with an entrance on the east, is occupied by the museum; the second story, which has its own entrance on the north, is devoted to the city library's reading room and offices. The building was opened to the public in February, 1937.

The museum consists of two large exhibit rooms, one just inside the east entrance, and the other on the extreme west. They are connected by a corridor from which a stairway ascends to the library and into which the directors' room opens. Exhibits are arranged in wall cases which line a large part of both rooms and in eleven floor cases. Some wall space is devoted also to large portraits and other pictures, such as lithographs showing New Ulm in 1860 and 1870. Extensive collections of Indian objects and of articles illustrative of pioneer domestic life are on display. Most of the exhibits are permanent, but four floor cases in the west room are devoted to temporary displays which are changed every two weeks. Photographs and documents of timely interest and portraits of pioneers are exhibited in these cases.

The Brown County society's most important possessions, however, are to be found not in its exhibit rooms, but in its directors' room. There, filed in steel cases, are the enormous collections of portraits, pictures, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, and the like accumulated and arranged by its president, Mr. Fred W. Johnson. The portrait collection alone represents a unique achievement on the part of Mr. Johnson, who has made local history his hobby. Some years ago he consulted the manuscript population schedules of the Minnesota census for 1860, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. There he found listed every individual who lived in Brown County at the time of the first federal census taken after Minnesota was admitted to statehood. To find and assemble pictures of all the people listed for Brown County became Mr. Johnson's ambition. The success with which he has met may be judged from the fact that he now has portraits of five hundred of the six hundred and fifty people who lived in New Ulm in 1860. For one township, Milford, which had a population of three hundred and fifty in 1860, he can show two hundred and seventy-five portraits. For the county as a whole he now has over ten thousand portraits—a collection that he describes as a

"family album" of Brown County. Most of these likenesses of the pioneers who toiled and lived and played in the Brown County of 1860 Mr. Johnson obtained from their descendants, some of whom reside in the county, but many of whom are scattered far and wide. The portraits have been mounted on boards of uniform size and filed in alphabetical order. Whenever possible, newspaper clippings about and biographical sketches of the individuals pictured are included.

Of unusual interest and value also is a chronological file of items relating to the history of Brown County. This consists largely of newspaper clippings, manuscripts, photostatic or typewritten copies of manuscripts and government documents, and pictures, which, like the portraits, have been mounted on boards of uniform size. These items are arranged under specific headings or topics, beginning with the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, by which the area of Brown County was opened to settlement. Other subjects included are the Sioux reservation in the Minnesota Valley, the Ramsey investigation, the Spirit Lake massacre, missions and missionaries in the county, Fort Ridgely, and the Sioux War. The creation of the county, changes made in its boundaries, its political history, and the organization of its townships also are covered. That Mr. Johnson has located and included in his file the original petition for the organization of every township in the county is an example of the thoroughness with which he works. His interest in social history is reflected in a file of programs, advertisements, and newspaper accounts of some three hundred musical and dramatic entertainments staged in New Ulm after 1866. With this material are filed pictures of amateur and professional musicians and actors who appeared in the performances.

Among the society's treasured possessions are 224 volumes of New Ulm newspapers covering the years from 1858 to the present. Included is a complete file of the rare *New Ulm Pioneer*, the city's first paper, which was published in German from 1858 to 1862. It was turned over to the society by the local Turnverein. Many other newspaper volumes were received from the city of New Ulm, which had preserved them with its archives. Mention should be made also of Mr. Johnson's large and valuable collection of autographed photographs of celebrities, which he expects eventually to turn over to the society.

The Brown County Historical Society was organized in 1929, and it now has some two hundred life members, each of whom has paid a membership fee of five dollars. Under Mr. Johnson's capable and

enthusiastic leadership, they have given to their county a model museum — a safe and beautiful home in which the records of its past can be permanently preserved.

B. L. H.

At a meeting of the Becker County Historical Society held at Detroit Lakes on October 11, Mrs. Alice Braden was named president, Mr. Walter Bird, vice-president, Mrs. W. H. Johnson, secretary, and Mr. Carl Hansen, treasurer.

A paper on the life and career of Joseph Renville was presented by Edwina Gould before about forty members of the Chippewa County Historical Society at Montevideo on October 27. Miss Gould, who is curator of the society's museum, reported that its collection now includes more than seventeen hundred items, and that the museum is outgrowing its present quarters. Officers elected at the meeting include Mr. David Fisher, president; the Reverend E. I. Strom, vice-president; and Mrs. L. M. Pierce, corresponding secretary.

Well-attended meetings of the newly organized Clearwater County Historical Society were held at Gonvick and Leonard on October 11 and December 9. About a hundred and thirty-five people gathered at the earlier meeting to hear Mr. Nels Fredensburg and Mr. Frank A. Nordquist speak on the history of Gonvick. Two pioneer residents of Leonard recalled their early experiences before an audience of about sixty people at that place.

At a meeting of the Cottonwood County Historical and Old Settlers' Association, held at Windom on October 8, Mr. I. I. Barga recalled some of his experiences as county superintendent of schools in the 1890's. About seventy people attended the meeting. A history of Storden Township, written by the late A. H. Anderson and preserved among the collections of this society, is published in installments in the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom, beginning with the issue of October 26.

Members of the Crow Wing County Historical Society gathered at Brainerd for the eleventh annual meeting of the organization on December 5. The following officers were elected: Carl Wright, president; Mrs. Rose Powell, vice-president; Dr. A. K. Cohen, treasurer; Mrs. Sarah Heald, secretary; and Judge L. B. Kinder, historian. The

society is making an effort to obtain more space in the courthouse for the display of its rapidly growing museum collection.

Mr. Burt W. Eaton of Rochester was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Fillmore County Historical Society, which was held at Preston on October 11. Mr. John C. Mills was elected president, Mr. J. C. White, vice-president, Mrs. S. B. Johnson, secretary, and Mrs. John Galligan, treasurer. This local society now has more than a hundred members.

That the Hennepin County Historical Society has assembled more than eight hundred items of local historical interest in the few months that have passed since its organization was revealed at its first annual meeting, which was held in Minneapolis on November 16. The collection, which includes newspapers, manuscripts, and many museum objects, is now in the Oak Hill School at St. Louis Park. It was described at the meeting by Mr. Edward A. Blomfield. Officers elected for the coming year include Mr. Robert E. Scott, president; Mr. Dana W. Frear, vice-president; Miss Ruth Thompson, secretary; and Mr. Edward C. Gale, treasurer.

Meetings held at Hallock on November 14 and December 8 resulted in the organization of the Kittson County Historical Society. A constitution drafted by a special committee was adopted at the latter meeting. Mr. Paul O. Hanson of Hallock is president of the new organization and Mr. Don Holland of Lancaster is secretary.

Plans for the removal of the museum of the Hutchinson Historical Society from the public library building to that of the local high school were made at a meeting held on December 9. In greatly improved quarters, it is hoped that the society's collections can be displayed to good advantage. Officers elected at the meeting include Mr. S. S. Beach, president; Mr. W. S. Clay, vice-president; and Mrs. Sophie White, secretary-treasurer.

Judge Bernard B. Brett was re-elected president of the Marshall County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held at Warren on November 17. Mr. O. M. Mattson was named vice-president, Mrs. Synneva Knapp, secretary, and Mrs. H. I. Yetter,

treasurer. Plans were made for holding the 1939 summer meeting of the society at Newfolden on the last Sunday in July.

Officers of the Martin County Historical Society who were re-elected at its annual meeting on October 3 are Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president, Mrs. H. W. Brodt, vice-president, and Mr. E. Howard Fitz, treasurer. It was tentatively planned to hold the society's next summer meeting at Okamanpedan State Park.

Under the auspices of the Morrison County Historical Society a marker has been placed on the grave near Little Falls of the elder Hole-in-the-Day, the Chippewa chief. The marker was donated by the Little Falls Granite Works. The society also has placed a marker in a Catholic cemetery of Little Falls over the grave of Nathan Richardson, a local pioneer who led the movement for the organization of the county in 1856.

The Otter Tail County Historical Society now has in its collection at Fergus Falls about twelve hundred museum objects, nearly a thousand portraits of pioneers, and about four hundred photographs of buildings of historical significance in the county. This was revealed in a report of the secretary, Mr. E. T. Barnard, submitted at a meeting of the society's directors in October. He estimates that almost twenty thousand visitors have viewed the society's museum displays in the past four years. Notes on the accessions of the society appear from time to time in the Fergus Falls papers.

The Pennington County Historical Society was organized at Thief River Falls on December 1, and plans were made to hold its first annual meeting on February 6. Temporary officers elected to serve until that time are Mr. Paul Lundgren, president; Mrs. J. M. Bishop, vice-president; Mrs. Mary V. Shaw, secretary; and Mr. Lincoln Arnold, treasurer.

An ambitious program of activity for the Pope County Historical Society in the winter of 1938-39 is outlined by G. C. Torguson, supervisor of a WPA project under the auspices of this society, in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for December 8. Included on the program are the indexing of local newspapers, assembling of biographies of pioneers, transcribing church and other records, gathering information for village and township histories, and writing articles on local history.

Plans for a combined library and museum building at Morgan, to be erected by Mr. Charles O. Gilfillan in memory of his father, the late C. D. Gilfillan, are announced in the *Morgan Messenger* for October 13. With a structure such as this in prospect for the housing of collections, it is to be hoped that a Redwood County historical society will be promptly organized. By the time that the building is completed, such a society could have ready for display hundreds of items illustrative of the interesting history of this Minnesota Valley county.

Early Swedish settlement in Rice County was the general theme of papers and talks presented at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on November 16. The "Backgrounds of Swedish Immigration" were discussed by Professor A. M. Holmquist of St. Olaf College; the experiences of a Rice County pioneer, August Mortenson, were recalled by his daughter, Mrs. E. Holway; and an account by Alice C. Olson of early Swedish settlement at Millersburg was read by Miss Maude Stewart. The papers by Professor Holmquist and Miss Olson appear in the *Northfield Independent* for December 1 and 29. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mr. C. N. Sayles, president; Mrs. Joseph Gannon, vice-president; Mr. Donald Scott, treasurer; and Mr. Theodore Estabrook, secretary.

A meeting held at Jordan on November 7 resulted in the organization of the Scott County Historical Society. A temporary committee, of which Mr. Harry A. Irwin of Belle Plaine is chairman and Mr. Edward F. Smith of Belle Plaine, secretary, is in charge of the work of the new society.

The Stearns County Historical Society has assembled more than a thousand items of historical interest and some two thousand biographies of local pioneers, according to an article in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for January 4. The society is hampered by lack of space and of display cases. Five cases in the corridors of the Stearns County Courthouse are available for its use, but only a small number of objects can be displayed there at one time. Recently funds for two additional cases were placed at the disposal of the society through the generosity of the Richmond Commercial Club and Mr. Alvah Eastman of St. Cloud.

A movement which may result in the organization of a Traverse County historical society is under way in that vicinity. In order to arouse interest in the proposed organization, newspapers at Browns

Valley, Graceville, and Wheaton have been publishing articles on local history prepared by George C. Allanson, supervisor of a WPA historical project.

A paper on the "Geological History of the Lake Pepin Valley" was read by George H. Beatty at the annual meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society, which was held at Lake City on October 10. The following officers were elected: G. M. Dwelle, president; Mrs. George Selover, vice-president; M. L. Erickson, treasurer; and W. H. Pletsch, secretary.

About a thousand objects of historical interest and other antiques were assembled and arranged by members of the Twentieth Century Club of Wadena and placed on display on October 22. Mr. G. E. Sarver of the Todd County Historical Society spoke at the exhibit, stressing the importance of organizing a Wadena County historical society which could insure the preservation of objects like those on display. A description of the exhibit, which was viewed by more than five hundred people, appears in the *Wadena Pioneer Journal* for October 27.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at Waseca on October 7. He took as his subject "The Lure of Minnesota History." Other speakers on the same program were Mrs. Fred Day and Mr. R. E. Hodgson.

At the annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society, which was held at Stillwater on October 17, Mr. E. E. Roney of Stillwater was named president for the coming year, Mrs. Henry J. Baily of Newport and Mr. Roy Strand of Marine were elected vice-presidents, Miss Annie Connors of Stillwater was named secretary, and Miss Grace Mosier of Stillwater was chosen treasurer. Mr. M. W. Halloran of Minneapolis spoke at a meeting of the society on November 18, taking as his subject some early Minnesota political campaigns and elections.

The Watonwan County Historical Society presented a program of talks before a large audience when it held its regular meeting at La Salle on October 20. Mr. George Hage, president of the society, reviewed the early history of Riverdale Township, in which La Salle is located, and Miss Eva Bolin outlined the story of the schools in the township.

Most of the school districts were represented by pioneer pupils, who recalled the country schools that they attended. Papers on "Frances Slocum" and on the "Founding of Grogan" were read by Clifford Boynton of St. Paul and by Frank Morris of Madelia at a meeting at St. James on December 12. Officers of the society elected on the latter date include Mr. George Hage, president; Mrs. Will Curtis, vice-president; Mr. J. E. Setrum, secretary; and Mr. Carl Hawkinson, treasurer.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

"A fine two story brick building, about 40 x 28 feet; built of the light colored yellow brick, and standing upon what is going to be the public square of the town" was erected at Chaska in the fall of 1864 to house a Moravian academy and boarding school, according to Sylvester Wolle, who went to Chaska to teach in the school. He describes the frontier community and its institution of learning in a letter which is published in the *Weekly Valley Herald* of Chaska for November 17. The original, written to Wolle's brother Francis on September 28, 1864, is preserved in the archives of the Moravian Theological Seminary at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The writer urges his brother to send without delay a "good second-hand" piano for the use of the school. "By the middle of November navigation in the Mississippi closes altogether and after that it will be too late," writes Wolle. "If a piano could be got ready in one week's time from the receipt of this I think we would avoid the risks of its lying over all winter on the way."

The establishment of the Carlton County Farm Bureau in 1918 and the growth of the organization during twenty years are described in the *Carlton County Vidette* for October 27. Sketches of the leaders of agricultural work in the county and a year-by-year review of the activities of the bureau are included.

Some early Minnesota ferry boats and crossings were described in a talk presented recently at Montevideo by Mrs. Sarah West and published in the *Montevideo News* for October 21. In traveling to her frontier home at Lac qui Parle in 1870, Mrs. West crossed the Minnesota River by ferry at several points. She describes in some detail a crude boat that was used at a crossing known as the Bushman Ferry.

A community historical museum has been built up in the Rush City school under the direction of C. H. Hedberg, superintendent. An account of the collection and an appeal to turn over to the museum objects of local historical interest and particularly photographs of Chisago County pioneers appears in the *Rush City Post* of October 28.

The story of the incorporation of the village of Bagley, which took place early in 1899 after a census of the inhabitants had been taken, is reviewed in the *Farmers Independent* of Bagley for November 17. Village and county records were used in preparing the account, which includes a "list of inhabitants residing within the territory proposed to be incorporated, on Nov. 28, 1898."

Storden Township in Cottonwood County is the subject of a historical sketch by A. H. Anderson which appears in installments in the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom from November 2 to 16. The author opens his narrative with an account of conditions in the township in the early seventies, when it was known as Norsk.

One chapter of the social history of Minneapolis is exploited by S. Wirt Wiley and Florence Lehmann in their recent volume entitled *Builders of Men: A History of the Minneapolis Young Men's Christian Association: 1866-1936* (1938. 339 p.). The period from the founding of the association by Russell H. Conwell in 1866 to its fiftieth anniversary is covered by Mr. Wiley; Miss Lehmann carries the story from that point to 1936. Included in the earlier section are accounts of the organization of the Y. M. C. A., of its early days, of the growth of its educational and social activities, of the struggle to raise funds for a building of its own, of the erection of the building and its occupation in 1892, and of the fiftieth anniversary celebration.

The founding of the Maternity Hospital of Minneapolis in 1887 is recalled in an interesting pamphlet issued to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary (1937. 24 p.). Special attention is given to the career of Dr. Martha G. Ripley, who established the hospital.

The Reverend John E. Bushnell is the author of a volume on the *History of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1907-1937* (1938. 169 p.), which has been issued as a continuation of Charles T. Thompson's review of the church's first fifty years, published in 1907. In the opening chapter of the present work

Mr. Bushnell reviews briefly the "Story of Origins" which began with the organization of the church in 1857, thus providing a background for detailed accounts of its activities in the three decades that followed its golden anniversary.

One of Minnesota's most recently settled communities, Bear River in Koochiching County, honored its pioneers in a celebration held on November 20. More than three hundred people witnessed a pageant reviewing the history of Bear River, beginning with the trail blazers of 1900. The arrival of the first settlers, the organization of a town board, and the establishment of a post office, a school, a newspaper, a ball club, and a church were depicted in the various episodes. A brief review of the history of this frontier settlement of the twentieth century appears in the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for November 30.

The future historian who undertakes to study and record the story of the public health movement in Minnesota will find useful a little *History of the McLeod County Public Health Association* by Mrs. C. J. Schmitz (7 p.). This narrative, which covers the years from June, 1919, when the association was organized, to 1938, has been issued as a multigraphed pamphlet.

Articles on pioneer life in McLeod County appearing in recent issues of the *Hutchinson Banner* include accounts of hunting trips of the fifties, in the issues of October 28 and December 30, and descriptions of some early Fourth of July celebrations, in the issue of October 21. A historical sketch of the Bear Lake Sunshine Society, a women's club organized in 1910, is contributed to the issue of November 11 by Mrs. J. A. Smutka.

The records of a district school in Fox Lake Township, Martin County, were used by Elsie M. Drewes in preparing an article on the history of the school which appears in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for December 13. The writer found that bonds to the amount of a hundred and fifty dollars were issued in 1877 to defray the expenses of building a schoolhouse. A sorghum mill established near Fairmont in 1863 by George Brockman is the subject of a brief article by Mrs. O. P. Lawrence in the *Sentinel* for November 11.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the chartering of Fidelity Lodge of the Masonic Order at Austin is the occasion for an interesting article

about the history of this fraternal organization in the *Austin Daily Herald* for November 10. The account is in large part based upon the manuscript records of the lodge, which, according to the writer, "contain for the historian and sociologist a vivid picture of Austin life during the second half of the last century." A number of items in this collection, such as programs, invitations, bills, and accounts, are described.

Senator Elmer E. Adams is the author of a series of "Reminiscences of Vernon A. Wright," the first installment of which appears in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for October 31. Wright's father, George B. Wright, the founder of Fergus Falls, figures prominently in the narrative. The son, a well-known architect, continued his interest in Fergus Falls long after leaving there and he designed a number of buildings for that community.

The first installment of a history of the medical profession in Otter Tail County, prepared by Dr. W. W. Drought for the county medical society, appears in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for October 4. The writer opens his narrative with an account of Dr. R. M. Reynolds, "the first physician in Fergus Falls and probably the first in the county," who settled there in 1871. In the installment for October 11, Dr. Drought tells of early hospitals in the county; and he presents a list of early doctors with brief sketches of their careers in the issue for December 15.

The golden jubilee of the Church of St. Luke in St. Paul, which was marked by members of the parish on October 25, was the occasion for the publication of a booklet about the history of the parish, its school, and various affiliated organizations (1938. 143 p.). The progress of this Catholic church since 1888, when a little chapel was erected in the hill district of St. Paul, is reviewed by Mary A. Cannon.

The history of the Ramsey County abstract office is briefly outlined in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 16. According to this account, abstracts are first mentioned in the proceedings of the county board for 1861; abstract records were kept by the register of deeds after July, 1862; and a separate abstract office was established in 1873.

The restoration of the Joseph R. Brown house near Renville is the subject of an article by George G. Allanson, Major Brown's grandson, in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 30.

An interesting description of the house and an account of its destruction in the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 are included.

The first installment of a "History of Renville High School Football" by L. F. Reid appears in the *Renville Star Farmer* for November 3. The writer opens his narrative with an account of the season of 1900, when the Renville team played its first games with teams from other communities.

About five hundred graduates of the Minnesota School for the Deaf at Faribault attended a celebration commemorating its seventy-fifth anniversary on October 15. Some information about the history of the school appears with an account of the anniversary ceremonies in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 17.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the village of Sherman, the *Rock County Star* of Luverne for November 3 publishes a sketch of the community's history by Mrs. John Grange. She reveals that the town was "laid out in 1888 by the Willmar and Sioux Falls townsite company."

The history of the College of St. Scholastica at Duluth, which traces its beginnings to a high school established in 1898 by the Benedictine sisters, is the subject of a feature article in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for October 23. Many pictures of college buildings erected since 1909 on the heights above the city illustrate the article. In the same paper for November 20 is a feature article, furnished by the Minnesota Writers' Project, in which the "Glories of Grand Portage" in the days of the fur trade under the Northwest Company are recalled. Some dramatic attractions presented in Duluth in 1903-04 are described in the *News-Tribune* for November 27. The account is based on a scrapbook of clippings and programs relating to the theater.

